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Borders may change, Sindh may return to India: Rajnath

'Today, the land of Sindh may not be a part of India, but civilisationally, it will always be a part of India. And as far as land is concerned, borders can change'

NEW DELHI

The Sindh region may not be with India today, but borders can change and the region may return to India, said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Addressing an event in the national capital on Sunday, Singh said, "...Today, the land of Sindh may not be a part of India, but civilisationally, Sindh will always be a part of India. And as far as land is concerned, borders can change. Who knows, tomorrow Sindh may return to India again..."

The Sindh province, the area near the Indus River, went to Pakistan following Partition in 1947, and the Sindhi people who lived in that region came to India.

The Minister further said Sindhi Hindus, especially from the generation of leaders like LK Advani, have never accepted the separation of Sindh region from India.

"I'd also like to mention that Lal Krishna Advani wrote in one of his books that Sindhi Hindus, especially those of his generation, still haven't accepted the separation of Sindh from India," he said.

"Not just in Sindh, but throughout India, Hindus consider the Indus River sacred. Many Muslims in Sindh also believed that the water of the Indus was no less sacred than the Aab-e-Zamzam of Mecca. This is Advani ji's quote," he added.

"Our people of Sindh, who hold the Indus River sacred, will always be our own. No matter where they are, they will always be ours," the Defence Minister added.

'PoK will merge with India peacefully'

At an interaction with the Indian community in Morocco on September 22 this year, Rajnath Singh stated that he was confident of India getting back Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) without taking any aggressive steps, as the people in PoK have been demanding freedom from the occupiers. "PoK will be ours on its own. Demands have started being made in PoK, you must have heard sloganeering," he had stated. "I was addressing the Indian Army at a programme in Kashmir Valley five years ago, I had then said that we will not need to attack and capture PoK, it is anyway ours; PoK itself will say, 'Main bhi Bharat Hoon'. That day will come," he stated after certain people remarked that the Central government had 'missed the chance' to capture PoK during Operation Sindoor on May 7.

G20 SUMMIT

AI must translate into global good: PM Modi

JOHANNESBURG

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday called for strict restrictions on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in deepfakes, crime, and terror activities.

Addressing the third session of the G20 Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, he highlighted the need for a global compact on AI to prevent misuse. Making a strong pitch for critical technologies to be 'human-centric', instead of 'finance-centric', the PM said, "It should be based on core principles of human oversight, safety by design and transparency," he said.

He furter said technology applications should be 'global' rather than 'national', and based on 'open source' rather than 'exclusive models'.

"This vision has been integrated into India's technology ecosystem, and the same has resulted in significant benefits, be it in space applications, AI or digital payments, where it is a world leader," the PM added.

PM attends IBSA Leaders' Meet

Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister participated in the IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa) Leaders' Meeting with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Modi affirmed India's commitment to deepening cooperation within the trilateral forum, which focuses on promoting South-South cooperation, pushing for reforms in global governance systems and enhancing collaboration among developing nations.

Top ULFA(I) leader Dohutia surrenders on Myanmar border

GUWAHATI

The Paresh Baruah faction of the banned United Liberation Front of Asom or ULFA (Independent) suffered a setback when one of its top leaders surrendered before troops of the paramilitary Assam Rifles on the Myanmar border on Sunday.

The 'self-styled major general' of ULFA(I), Arunodoi Dohutia alias Arunodoi Asom gave up arms along with his personal security officer, Francis Asom, near Pangsau Pass on the India–Myanmar border in Arunachal Pradesh. The two are likely to be brought to Guwahati.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma confirmed the surrender of the ULFA leader, but dismissed the speculation that Dohutia would be taken to New Delhi for peace talks.

"What I know is that they are not going to Delhi. They will stay in Tinsukia and may come to Guwahati to meet the DGP. The Assam government has no plans to take them to Delhi," he told reporters.

He said any discussion with the ULFA would be held with Baruah as there is no point in talking to others. "Baruah was unwilling to engage in talks in the manner the government wanted," he added.

Dohutia had served as the spokesperson of the ULFA and has been a trusted lieutenant of the Baruah. His surrender is being seen as a major blow to the insurgent group.

'Nothing to say': Kharge on Cong quagmire

Amid mounting speculations over the possible change in the party's Karnataka leadership, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday asserted that the high command will decide on the issue of change in the chief ministerial face. "I have nothing to say," he said while addressing reporters outside his residence here. "You have been standing here continuously for three days. There is nothing to say about the developments happening here. Whatever happens, the high command will do it. It is not required to worry too much about it", Kharge said. His remarks come amid increasing speculation about a change in the CM face in Karnataka, with the alleged "power-sharing agreement" of 2023 between Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar being cited in political circles. Earlier in the day, Home Minister G Parameshwaraimplied that he also remains in the chief ministerial race.

Siddu vs DKS tussle gets twist with GP signals CM ambition

BENGALURU

The Home Minister says he is in fray for CM too; AICC president Kharge will decide on any leadership change, if necessary, after discussing with top leaders.

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Sunday hinted that he too was in the race for the Chief Minister post, should a leadership change occur in the state, and amid persistent demands for a 'Dalit CM'.

However, seeking to downplay reports of confusion within the Congress over the issue of CM change, he said that no one from the Congress high command has commented on the matter so far, nor has it been discussed within the Congress Legislature Party (CLP).

"AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge will decide on leadership change, if there is a need, after discussing with top party leader Rahul Gandhi, he said.

Power Tussle Explosion

"Our leader Rahul Gandhi is on a foreign tour. After he comes, if there are any developments in the party, the AICC President will discuss and decide. The AICC President is from Karnataka. No one knows as much about state politics as he does. The AICC President has been in politics for 50 years. He makes decisions. If there is any confusion in the party, Rahul Gandhi will take a decision after he comes," Parameshwara said.

Speculation about a leadership change has gained momentum in Karnataka after the Congress government crossed the halfway mark of its five-year term on November 20, a phase some are referring to as the 'November Revolution'. The buzz stems from an alleged 'power-sharing' pact between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar dating back to 2023.

'I'm always in the race, it's not a big issue'

Replying to a query on whether he was in the CM race, Parameshwara said, "I'm always in the race; it is not a big issue. I was the Pradesh Congress Committee president in 2013, we brought the Congress government to power (in the 2013 Assembly polls). I never claimed credit for it solely. I lost in that poll. Had I won, what would have happened, I don't know."

"I was in the race then, naturally, as there is a convention in the Congress party where the PCC president is often given a chance (to become CM), but it is not followed in some situations....," he said.

When asked if he would approach the high command to consider him in case of a leadership change, he said, "Let that situation come, such a situation has not come."

On his name doing the rounds as a probable CM candidate, amid 'fight' for the top post between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, he termed it media creation.

'No plans to meet Kharge'

Clarifying that he currently has no plans to meet Kharge, the Home Minister said all decisions in the Congress are made involving the high command. Has anyone from the high command has made any statement regarding a leadership change or cabinet reshuffle, he asked.

'All left to the high command'

"Siddaramaiah was chosen as CM at the CLP meeting after the 2023 Assembly polls, with AICC observers present, and that no mention was made of a 2.5-year term then. If CM has to be changed in between, it is left to the high command. We cannot do it. It was done in the past, Veerappa Moily replaced S Bangarappa as chief minister," he said, adding that he does not believe such a situation has arisen now in the state.

SC to hear plea against Wangchuk's detention today

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear a plea filed by Sonam Wangchuk's wife, which termed the climate activist's detention under the stringent National Security Act (NSA) as illegal and an arbitrary exercise violating his fundamental rights, on Monday.

The court had on October 29 sought response of the Centre and the Ladakh administration on the amended plea of Wangchuk's wife Gitanjali J Angmo. As per the court's cause list of November 24, the plea is slated to come up for hearing before a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjaria.

B'desh sends letter to India seeking Hasina's extradition

DHAKA

Bangladesh's interim government has sent an "official letter" to India seeking the extradition of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina after a special tribunal sentenced her to death, a senior adviser said on Sunday.

"The letter was sent the day before yesterday," Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain was quoted as saying by agencies.

As per reports, the note verbal (official diplomatic letter) was sent through the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi. On November 17, the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT-BD) sentenced 78-year-old Hasina to death along with then home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal on charges of committing "crimes against humanity" after their trial in absentia. Hasina is currently in India. Kamal is believed to be hiding in India. Hasina's Awami League government was toppled in a student-led violent protest termed as the 'July Uprising' on August 5 last year.

Three days later, Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus flew from Paris at the call of the protesting students to assume the charge of the interim government as its chief adviser. Hasina and the two others were accused of adopting brutal means to tame the protestors, while a UN rights office report said about 1,400 people were killed between July 15 and August 15 last year.

MIRACLE IN THE WILD

It's a twin! Anarkali gives birth to twin calves in Panna Tiger Reserve

PANNA

In a rare biological phenomenon in the wild, Anarkali, a 57-year-old elephant, gave birth to two twin female calves at the Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR) on Sunday.

The calves were born nearly three hours apart under the close supervision of veterinarians and wildlife experts. Both the mother and her newborns are reported to be healthy.

Dr Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, wildlife veterinarian, described the birth as "a wonder of nature and a rare occurrence", stressing that elephant twin births are extremely uncommon even in protected environments.

PTR, known for its tigers, is also home to a strong population of elephants. With the arrival of Anarkali's twin calves, the number of elephants in the reserve has now increased to 21.

Reserve officials said this is the first time in PTR's history that an elephant has delivered twins. The news has sparked excitement among forest staff, researchers, and wildlife lovers alike.

PTR Field Director Naresh Singh Yadav said that special care arrangements have been put in place. "Anarkali is being given highly nutritious food, including porridge, sugarcane, jaggery, and pure ghee laddus," he said. A dedicated team has been deployed exclusively for the feeding and care of the newborns.

Anarkali is no ordinary elephant. According to PTR records, she was brought to the reserve in 1986 and since then has been an indispensable part of forest protection efforts.

Over the past decades, she has given birth to six calves, but this is her first experience of delivering twin female calves.

State BJP chief meets Shah amid Cong power tussle

NEW DELHI

Amid the power tussle in the state Congress, which was in full swing, state BJP president B Y Vijayendra met Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Sunday and briefed him on the ongoing state political turmoil.

Vijayendra took to X to devulge the details about meeting the Central leader, He wrote on X that he met Shah to congratulate him for the NDA alliance's resounding victory in the Bihar assembly elections."

"Met Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Hon. @AmitShah Ji and respectfully congratulated him today. By handling the Bihar election, which was termed as a clear indicator for national politics, most effectively and extremely skillfully, Amit Shah Ji," his X post reads.

QUICK READ

'White-collar module stockpiled explosives for 2 yrs'

NEW DELHI: The probe into the Faridabad white-collar terror module linked to the Delhi blast have reportedly revealed that the network spent nearly two years procuring explosives and remote-triggering devices. According to sources, Dr Muzammil Ganaie, one of the accused, during interrogation by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has reportedly admitted to procuring 26 quintals of NPK fertilizer from Gurugram and Nuh in Haryana and also other precursor chemicals for about Rs 3 lakh.

Kharge likens SIR implementation to Covid lockdown

BENGALURU: Reacting to the deaths of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) in several states, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday said the hasty implementation of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise is similar to the chaos seen during demonetisation and the COVID-19 lockdown. Citing a media report that 16 Booth Level Officers have died in just 19 days, he said that the mounting workload associated with the SIR exercise is driving BLOs and polling officers to die by suicide.

QUICK READ

Bengaluru North City Corporation imposes meat ban

BENGALURU

Bengaluru North City Corporation has announced a complete ban on animal slaughter and meat sales on November 25, 2025, in observance of Sadhu Vaswani Jayanti. The Commissioner instructed all slaughterhouses and meat shops within the corporation's jurisdiction to suspend operations for the day. Residents and businesses are advised to comply with the order. The decision aims to honor the spiritual significance of the occasion. For further information, the official notification regarding the meat sale prohibition has been issued by the corporation. Authorities requested cooperation from shop owners.

City's second airport faces major roadblocks

BENGALURU

The much-awaited second international airport in Bengaluru is facing delays due to multiple hurdles. Both the Bengaluru and proposed Hosur airports fall within controlled HAL airspace, creating regulatory challenges. The existing Kempegowda International Airport's 150 km concession agreement also blocks commercial operations at new airports until at least 2033. AAI reports highlight terrain issues near Kanakapura and Nelamangala, including hilly and rocky land close to Bannerghatta hills. Tamil Nadu's Hosur airport proposal faces farmer opposition, while the state aims to benefit from Bengaluru's aviation growth. Officials continue exploring solutions, but the project remains stalled.

B'luru West Commissioner orders Yeshwantpur junction upgrade

The Commissioner ordered officials to identify, clear, and strictly monitor all garbage dumping spots on roads, footpaths, and empty sites

BENGALURU

Bengaluru West Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dr. Rajendra K.V. has instructed officials to develop and beautify the traffic island at Yeshwantpur Junction to improve traffic flow and public safety.

He conducted a surprise inspection by riding a two-wheeler from Makeri Circle to Manjunath Metro Station. During the visit, he closely observed road conditions, traffic movement, and public infrastructure. He directed officials to repaint the Yeshwantpur flyover, install proper streetlights, and beautify the surrounding areas for better visibility and safety.

Rajendra expressed concern over the poor condition of medians. He noted that many medians in the middle of the road were dirty and neglected. He ordered immediate cleaning and improvement of all medians to ensure a better look and safer roads for commuters.

He also instructed officers to renovate and maintain bus stops properly. He said bus stops must provide comfort and safety to passengers and should not be ignored. Broken shelters and damaged benches should be repaired quickly.

The Commissioner also focused on removing black spots in the area. He ordered officials to identify all garbage dumping points along roads, footpaths and empty sites, and clear them immediately. He directed them to monitor these areas strictly to ensure no new dumping happens. During the inspection, he noticed blocked drains near the KIA showroom. He instructed officers to carry out complete drainage cleaning and ensure smooth water flow to avoid flooding during rains.

He further ordered officials to remove all illegal footpath encroachments for safe pedestrian movement. He also reviewed road widening work near Yeshwantpur Metro and asked engineers to speed up the project to reduce traffic issues.

Additional Commissioner Digvijay Bodke, Chief Engineer Swayamprabha, Executive Engineer and other officers accompanied him.

The Commissioner said these steps will help improve traffic safety, cleanliness, and city beauty for the benefit of all citizens.

KEA announces recruitment for various govt posts

Candidates should possess Graduation, B.Com, LLB, BE/B.Tech, MBA, MSW, or any postgraduate degree from a recognized university, with specific qualifications varying by post, as per official notification.

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) has released a new recruitment notification for various government posts, including Assistant Traffic Manager. This is a good opportunity for graduates and postgraduates who want a stable government job in Karnataka. According to the notification, online applications are open and interested candidates must apply before December 10, 2025.

The recruitment covers several posts in different departments under KEA.

The list of vacancies includes Assistant Administrative Officer (2 posts), Assistant Accounts Officer (2 posts), Assistant Legal Officer (6 posts), Assistant Labour Welfare Officer (5 posts), Assistant Mechanical Engineer (8 posts), and Assistant Traffic Manager (10 posts).

Candidates must have completed Graduation, B.Com, LLB, BE/B.Tech, MBA, MSW or any Postgraduate degree from a recognized university or board. Different posts have different qualification requirements, so applicants must check the official notification carefully.

As per the age limit rules, candidates should be between 18 and 38 years as of September 29, 2025. Age relaxation is given as per government norms. Category 2A, 2B, 3A and 3B candidates get 3 years relaxation, while SC, ST and Category-1 candidates get 5 years relaxation.

The application fee is ₹750 for General and backward categories. For SC, ST and Category-1 candidates, the fee is ₹500. For Persons with Disabilities (PWD), the fee is ₹250.

To apply, candidates must first read the KEA Recruitment Notification 2025 carefully. Then they should visit the official KEA website and click on the online application link. Fill all required details correctly and upload scanned copies of necessary documents and a recent photo. After paying the application fee, submit the form.

Applicants are advised to apply early to avoid last-minute problems and keep a copy of the application for future reference.

All selected candidates will undergo one year of language training focusing on basic skills, patient and elderly communication, with tests and certificates awarded upon completion

K'taka to host first international job fair in January 2026

BENGALURU

For the first time, the Karnataka government will organize an international job fair in Bengaluru in January 2026. This special event is meant to help skilled workers from the State find job opportunities in foreign countries. The job fair is being planned by the Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihoods.

According to officials, there is a high demand for Indian workers in many countries, especially in Europe, Gulf nations, and Middle Eastern countries. Jobs are mainly available for nurses, caregivers, plumbers, carpenters, mechanics, and other technical workers. This fair will give a direct chance for trained candidates to meet foreign companies and recruitment agencies. Manoj Kumar Meena, Secretary of the department, said that the government is already contacting foreign companies and consulates. They are using emails and roadshows to reach employers abroad. He said India has a strong skilled workforce, and many countries are searching for such workers.

Inspired by the Kerala model, Karnataka will also organize a nursing conference for nurses trained in the State. This will help them connect with international healthcare employers.

The government tool room and training centre is also preparing students. German language laboratories will be started in two centres. German language training will be provided, especially for those going to European countries.

All selected candidates will receive one year of language training before final recruitment.

This training will not only focus on basic language, but also on communication needed for working with patients and elderly people. Special tests will be conducted and language certificates will be given.

Officials believe this job fair will help thousands of unemployed youth who have completed skill-based courses. It will open global job doors for them and improve their financial condition.

The government hopes this event will strengthen Karnataka's position as a major skill and employment hub in India.

Anekal residents to protest against poor road conditions

BENGALURU

More than 10,000 residents of Anekal taluk will hold a massive protest on November 29 against the terrible condition of roads in their areas. The protest will take place at the ASB College Grounds under the banner of the Anekal Taluk Citizens' Welfare Committee.

Residents from Muttanallur, Hebbagodi, Singena Agrahara and nearby areas are joining the protest.

They are demanding immediate asphalting of the main roads in Heelalige, Singena Agrahara, Anantha Nagar and Sampige Nagar. According to them, these roads have been in poor condition for nearly twenty years. The committee said that despite many complaints and requests made to local authorities, no permanent solution has been given. More than 20 apartment layouts in these areas still do not have proper roads, drainage facilities and regular water supply. Due to this, daily life has become very difficult for families, elderly people, patients and students. Though the problem was reported to panchayat members, the tehsildar and the local MLA, only temporary patchwork was done. But because of heavy traffic, the patched areas break down again within a few weeks.

Shiva Reddy, a member of the committee, said the 3-kilometre road from Huskuru Road to Anantha Nagar and Heelalige is in very bad condition.

B'luru Central launches phone-in program to address civic issues

BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Central Municipal Corporation has announced a special phone-in program where citizens can directly speak to the Commissioner about their civic problems.

Commissioner Rajendra Cholan will personally take calls from the public on Monday, November 24, 2025, between 6.00 pm and 7.00 pm. This program is being conducted to help residents report their problems quickly and get faster solutions without delay. Citizens living under the limits of the Bengaluru Central Municipal Corporation can call the control room landline number 080-22975803 during the scheduled time.

The Commissioner said the aim of this program is to listen directly to the people and give immediate instructions to officials for solving their issues. This weekly program will be held every Monday during the same time to connect better with residents and understand their daily problems. People can report complaints related to road potholes, damaged roads, and road repair work. They can also complain about streetlight problems, garbage collection issues, and delays in waste removal. Other issues that can be reported include cutting of dry or dangerous trees, park maintenance problems, e-account related difficulties, and removal of illegal banners and posters.

Complaints about footpath repairs, footpath encroachments by vendors or shops, and drainage cleaning can also be shared during the call. Further, citizens can raise concerns about any other basic services provided by the Municipal Corporation.

Rajendra Cholan said he will listen to every caller and guide the concerned department officials on the spot to start action. He assured that genuine complaints will be taken seriously and followed up.

He requested citizens to use this opportunity wisely and provide clear details of their problems, including area name and location, so action can be taken quickly without confusion or delay.

W. D. Ashok advocates quality education, skill devpt

BENGALURU

Students should adopt strong life values, stay away from bad habits, and focus on quality education along with skill development, said Seshadripuram Education Foundation Trustee W. D. Ashok. He was speaking at the inauguration of the Students' Conference 2025 held at Seshadripuram Academy of Business Studies College in Kengeri. The event was organized by the Commerce Department, Rotary Upkar, Rotary Kengeri, S.A.B.S Rotaract Club, and the college management.

Ashok told students that in today's competitive world, scoring even 99 percent marks alone cannot guarantee a bright future. He stressed that practical skills, positive attitude, and strong character are more important for long term success. He also advised students to change their lifestyle, improve their discipline, and expand their business knowledge to face future challenges.

Rotary Kengeri Suburban President Dr. Anupama Panchakshari said students should not waste time on useless activities and must stay focused on their goals. She encouraged them to use every opportunity to learn and grow. Rotary Upkar President Madhu Kiran R. said leadership qualities are very important for students. He explained that leadership can be developed through active participation in sports, cultural programs, social service, and other co-curricular activities along with academics.

He added that true success comes when knowledge, skills, and character are balanced properly. The program also highlighted the role of colleges and organizations in guiding youth towards a better future.

Seshadripuram College Principal Dr. Jayaram spoke about the importance of such conferences for student growth. Program coordinator and associate professor Dr. Chethan M. R. guided the students through the objectives of the program. IQAC coordinator Dr. Roopashree U., Rotaract coordinator Asha G., faculty members, and students were also present.

RESIDENT SAFETY CONCERN

Stray dog fear rises in Kodigehalli area

BENGALURU

Stray dog attacks have increased in Kodigehalli's Kempegowda Nagar area, creating fear among residents and walkers. Over the last two weeks, several people reported packs of dogs roaming streets and parks at night. Two weeks ago, about twenty stray dogs attacked Viresh, a thirty three year old worker, near Bommasandra Lake in Ganesh Nagar. He suffered deep injuries on his hands, legs, neck and head. He was treated at Victoria Hospital and has now returned home, but still needs care.

Because of the injuries, he cannot go back to work and is struggling to pay hospital bills. His family says no compensation has been given yet by local authorities. Earlier, another man named Sitappa was killed in a similar attack in the nearby Telecom Layout. After these incidents, officials caught some dogs and moved them, but residents say the same dogs returned within a week.

Now the problem has grown again, and people are afraid to step outside after sunset. Children are not allowed to play alone, and morning walkers feel unsafe in parks. Locals also complain about loud barking at night, which disturbs their sleep. Residents have requested the civic body to take strict action by relocating aggressive dogs and starting proper sterilization drives. They also demanded medical and financial help for victims like Viresh, who are suffering due to the attacks.

People say safety should be a priority and authorities must act fast before another tragedy happens in the area. Until a solution is found, fear continues to rule the streets of Kodigehalli, affecting life of families living in the neighborhood. They hope for immediate action.

Safari ban hurts livelihoods, operators demand immediate action

BENGALURU

Travel operators in Karnataka have urged the State government to restart jungle safaris in Bandipur and Nagarahole, saying the ban has badly affected tourism and the lives of thousands of families who depend on it. Safari services in both tiger reserves were stopped earlier this month after a series of tiger attacks in H.D. Kote and Sargur areas, where three farmers lost their lives. Due to fear among villagers, the government suspended safaris and trekking so forest officials could track and capture tigers that had moved towards human settlements. The Forest Department has since captured two tigers linked to the incidents.

Karnataka State Travel Owners' Association President K. Radhakrishna Holla said the tourism sector in the State is already facing many difficulties. With fewer tourists coming, the safari suspension has made things worse. He said winter is usually the busiest season for tourism. Stopping safaris during this time has caused heavy financial loss to operators, drivers, guides, and hotel staff.

He explained that summer restrictions are understandable due to fire risk and water shortage, but a complete ban in winter is harming people who depend on safari-based tourism for daily income.

Narayana L.R., a cab driver from Yelahanka, shared his struggle. He said he used to earn around ₹12,000 to ₹15,000 per week by taking tourists to Bandipur. After the ban, his income has fallen to just about ₹3,000. He added that many drivers and workers are now finding it hard to run their homes. The association has requested the government to follow a balanced approach instead of a total shutdown. They have asked for safaris to resume with strict safety rules, limited entry, and only certified vehicles.

QUICK READ

Citizens urged to protect Tungabhadra River

Simdhanur

The third edition of the Jal and Janajagruti Padayatra was held at LBK and Noble Degree Colleges in Simdhanur, emphasizing the cleanliness and protection of the Tungabhadra River. Organizers, including the National Swabhimana Andolan and Karnataka Nirmala Tungbhadra Abhiyan Samiti, were felicitated. Speakers highlighted the critical importance of water, noting that only a small fraction is usable and much of it is polluted. Lokesh of Paryavarana Trust stressed industrial and agricultural pollution's impact on human health. Farmers' union leaders urged student participation in river-cleaning initiatives. College officials, students, and environmentalists joined, promoting awareness and community responsibility for safeguarding this vital water resource.

Yadgir Child Protection Unit Flags Poor Inter-Dept Cooperation

Yadgir

The Child Protection Unit in Yadgir is raising concerns over lack of cooperation from some local departments during awareness programs on child rights, POCSO, and prevention of child marriage. Officials said lower-level staff often skip meetings or avoid participating in school and village activities, citing staff shortages or other excuses. This non-cooperation hampers effective implementation of directives issued by the Women and Child Welfare Committee, which followed a recent case of a 17-year-old giving birth in a school toilet. District-level officials urge active involvement to protect children and ensure awareness reaches all communities.

Bhagwant Khuba seeks funds to protect Bidar University land

Khuba said he helped establish the university in Bidar, but claimed parts of its allotted land are illegally occupied by unknown individuals

BIDAR

Former Union Minister Bhagwant Khuba has appealed to Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot to support the development and safety of Bidar University. He requested a grant of ₹30 crore from the Kalyana Karnataka Regional Development Fund to build a strong compound wall around the university land.

Khuba said the university was set up when he was a Union Minister and his government was in power. He used his influence to bring the university to Bidar district for the benefit of local students. The university was given 12 acres and 18 guntas of land in Survey No. 9 of Halahalli (K) village and another 310 acres in Survey No. 10. However, he claimed that unknown people have illegally occupied parts of this land and are trying to grab more.

He said the university authorities informed him about this serious issue, after which he met the Governor and explained the situation. He also shared the matter on his official Facebook page to bring public attention. According to him, if a proper compound wall is not built, the university may lose most of its land in the future.

Khuba also pointed out that the university's Registrar (Administration) has been requesting a land survey for the last two years. The requests were sent to the Land Records Department, Bhalki Tahsildar and Basavakalyan Assistant Commissioner. But the work has not been completed yet. He alleged that political pressure and the influence of powerful people are stopping officials from carrying out the survey.

He urged the Governor to direct the Bidar District Collector and concerned departments to immediately mark the boundaries, remove encroachments and protect the university property.

Khuba said the university was created for the educational growth of the children of the district. He warned that if the land grabbing is ignored, the 310 acres could shrink to just 30 acres in the future. He demanded strict action against encroachers so that the land remains fully under the control of the university and is used only for education and development.

PSI scam main accused R.D. Patil faces fresh charges

Patil received three weeks' interim bail from the Supreme Court and was released from Kalaburagi Jail, after which Shivakumar alleged Patil attacked him over a minor argument

KALABURAGI

Trouble has increased for R.D. Patil, the main accused in the PSI recruitment scam, even after getting interim bail. A fresh FIR has been registered against him for allegedly assaulting a jail staff member on the very day of his release.

Patil was granted three weeks of interim bail by the Supreme Court and was released from Kalaburagi Central Jail on November 21. Soon after his release, a jail staff member named Shivakumar filed a complaint at Farhatabad police station. He alleged that Patil attacked and misbehaved with him over a small argument inside the jail premises.

However, R.D. Patil has denied the allegations and filed a counter-complaint against the same jail staff. In his statement, Patil claimed that Shivakumar assaulted him first and used harsh words even after knowing he had got bail. He said the staff member pushed him, causing injury to his left ear, which started bleeding.

Patil also stated that he was suffering from back pain and had gone for medical treatment soon after his release. He said his medical documents would prove that he was injured during the incident. He has demanded that the police collect and examine the CCTV footage from the jail to uncover the truth.

Police officials said they have registered both complaints and will conduct a fair investigation. They added that statements from other jail staff and possible witnesses will be recorded. CCTV footage from the central jail will also be checked to verify both sides of the story.

Legal experts said such counter cases are common in sensitive matters and only proper evidence can decide the truth. Meanwhile, the police urged the public not to jump to conclusions and wait for the final investigation report before making any judgment.

MLA Pacchu Chavan laid the foundation to upgrade Kamalnagar Health Center to fifty beds, promising improved facilities and support

Kamalnagar Hospital upgrade begins with foundation ceremony

BIDAR

MLA Pacchu Chavan laid the foundation stone for upgrading the Kamalnagar Community Health Center from thirty beds to fifty beds. The project will cost Rs 6.45 crore. He said Kamalnagar, a new taluk center, needs better health services due to rising patient numbers every day for local families and rural villagers too.

The MLA said the hospital earlier had only thirty beds, which was not enough. Now it will have fifty beds with new facilities and better infrastructure. He promised to support all future development of the hospital and ensure the project helps poor and needy people in the area without delay or discrimination of services.

He warned contractors to maintain quality and finish work on time. He said he would not tolerate complaints about poor construction. He also asked hospital staff and medical officers to keep close watch on the work and report directly if they notice any irregularities or misuse of funds during the construction process itself immediately.

Later, he inspected different wards of the hospital and spoke to patients. He asked if doctors were working properly and if free medicines were given. When people complained about doctors not being available at night, he expressed anger and ordered round-the-clock doctor availability at the center for emergency care and basic treatment of villagers.

He also launched development works worth over one crore rupees, including CC roads and drainage in Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe colonies and Sonal village. Later, he visited Dr BR Ambedkar Residential School in Horandi and reviewed its facilities. Many local leaders, officials and citizens attended the events and supported the ongoing public works.

Raichur authorities crackdown on corrupt Devadurga officials

RAICHUR

A case has been registered against the Devadurga APMC President and three others for allegedly operating an unauthorized check post near the Tinthini Bridge in Raichur district. The complaint, filed by APMC Vice President Abdul Aziz, alleges that the accused collected ₹100 from each lorry transporting paddy without any official approval. According to the complaint, 50–60 lorries passed through the spot daily, leading to illegal collections of ₹5,000–₹6,000. Of this, only ₹1,000 was reportedly given to the check-post workers, while the remaining amount was shared by the APMC President and the in-charge secretary. Aziz said the activity inconvenienced farmers and transporters and damaged the APMC's reputation. Based on the complaint, Jalahalli police have registered an FIR and begun verifying the legality of the check post and collecting statements from drivers and local residents.

Poor Childbirth Performance: State Suspends Specialist Hiring

CHINCHOLI

The Health and Family Welfare Department has suspended fresh recruitment of specialist doctors in several Community Health Centers (CHCs) across Karnataka due to poor performance in childbirth cases. The decision has caused worry among rural residents, especially in Kalaburagi district, where most CHCs are now losing their specialist services.

According to the department, CHCs that conduct fewer than 30 deliveries per month are considered underperforming. In such centers, specialist posts are being removed and shifted to taluk hospitals and selected high-performing CHCs. As part of this decision, 114 gynecologists, 86 obstetricians and 119 pediatricians are being reallocated from 228 low-performing CHCs across the state. Only MBBS doctors will now work in these CHCs.

In Kalaburagi district, specialist posts are being removed from 16 CHCs. Shahabad is the only center where posts are not being shifted. This has forced rural patients to travel long distances to taluk hospitals for maternity and child care services. Health centers that were once the main support for villagers are now expected to function without specialist doctors, which has created fear among the public.

Leaders and local people have criticized the decision. Kalaburagi District Guarantee Implementation Committee Vice President Narasimlu Kumbara said instead of removing doctors, the government should first find out why deliveries are low and solve those problems. He questioned whether it is right to punish rural areas for low numbers.

Mukham D.V. Reddy Patil of Kallur village said Kumchavaram CHC in Chincholi taluk already handles about 23 deliveries every month. He said if obstetrics facilities are improved there, the number can easily cross 30. But now, instead of strengthening the hospital, the government is weakening it.

People fear this move will make rural health services even more fragile and increase hardships for pregnant women and newborn children in remote areas.

Illegal ration rice seized in Jayavargi operation

JAYAVARGI

Food Department officials seized a large quantity of ration rice in Jayavargi after receiving information about illegal collections under the government's Annabhagya scheme. The rice was meant for poor families, but black market agents were buying it cheaply and selling it for profit. This has affected many needy people who depend on this scheme.

According to officials, some agents were moving from house to house in different parts of the city and convincing beneficiaries to sell their ration rice. They offered small amounts of cash and collected the rice in bulk. After getting a tip-off, Food Inspector Surek Kha and his team carried out sudden raids in the Jo Padapatti area, as well as in Nadageri and Sibbam localities.

During the operation, the team seized around 12 quintals of ration rice stored illegally. The officials said this rice was collected from several families over the past few days. A detailed investigation is now underway to find out who is behind this illegal trade network and how long it has been operating.

A formal complaint has been registered at the Jayavargi police station against the people involved in this activity. The police have started searching for the accused and are also trying to identify others linked to the racket. Officials warned that strict action will be taken against anyone found misusing government welfare schemes.

The Food Department has appealed to the public not to sell their ration items to private individuals. They reminded people that the Annabhagya rice is meant only for personal use and for the welfare of poor families. They also asked citizens to inform authorities if they notice any such illegal activities in their area.

Officials said regular checks and surprise inspections will continue in the coming days to prevent further misuse. Their aim is to protect public resources and ensure fair distribution to all eligible families.

Nine years later, village priest Beerappa case gains public attention

KALABURAGI

A nine-year-old murder case from Kadani village has finally come to light after a shocking video went viral on social media. The case is about Beerappa, a village priest, who was found dead behind his house in April 2016. At that time, his wife Shantabai told everyone that he died due to heavy drinking. The family believed her words and completed the last rites without suspicion.

Now, after nine years, police have confirmed that Beerappa was murdered because he was an obstacle to his wife's illegal relationship. According to the investigation, Shantabai had an illicit relationship with a man named JCB Sidhu from the same village. She first tried to kill Beerappa by mixing tablets in his food, but he survived. Later, Sidhu hired a man named Mahesh and gave him "Supari" to kill Beerappa.

Mahesh, along with his friends Shankar and Suryakanth, made Beerappa drink alcohol and then strangled him to death. After the murder, Shantabai and Sidhu pretended it was a natural death. However, Mahesh later demanded the promised money for the murder, which he never received. When Shantabai refused to pay even after nine years, Mahesh recorded a video about the crime and shared it. This video went viral and caught the attention of Beerappa's brother.

Following this, Beerappa's brother filed a complaint at the Farhatabad police station. The police reopened the case and arrested five people: Shantabai, JCB Sidhu, Mahesh, Shankar, and Suryakanth. The police said this case was solved mainly because of the viral video and renewed investigation.

Locals are shocked and saddened by the incident. Many said they never imagined such a dark truth was hidden in their small village for so many years. The police said the investigation is still going on and strict action will be taken against all the accused.

COTTON FARMING WOES

Farmers struggle amid cotton harvest labour shortage

YADGIR

Farmers in Kembhavi and nearby villages are facing a deep crisis during the cotton harvest season. Heavy rains earlier damaged many plants, and now a severe shortage of agricultural labourers has added to their pain. With local workers moving to towns for better pay, farmers are forced to bring labourers from far away areas by autos, tractors and goods vehicles.

Because of this shortage, daily wages have almost doubled. Earlier, women workers were paid around 300 rupees per day. Now they demand 400 to 500 rupees. In addition, farmers must pay vehicle charges to bring them to remote fields. For cotton picking, labourers charge 14 to 15 rupees per kilogram.

On average, one worker collects 70 to 80 kilograms of cotton daily and earns nearly 900 to 1000 rupees. While this benefits workers, farmers say it is crushing their already weak finances. After spending heavily on ploughing, seeds, fertilizer, weeding and pesticides, they are left with very little profit.

Many farmers stand in long queues every morning just to hire workers. Some even go door to door in nearby towns to request labourers. Scenes of vehicles full of workers moving early morning and late evening have become common on village roads.

The market price of cotton currently ranges between 6,500 and 7,200 rupees per quintal. However, farmers say this price does not match their rising costs. They fear that if cotton is not plucked quickly, dry weather may further damage the crop.

Farmers are now appealing to the government to support them by arranging labour support or offering relief. They warn many growers will slip into debt and leave farming.

QUICK READ

Talent day celebrated at Milagres College

Mangaluru

Milagres College hosted its inter-class Talent Day, organized jointly by the IQAC and the Cultural Association, at the college auditorium. Principal Rev. Dr. Alwyn Serao presided over the event. Dr. Jaison Siqueira, lecturer in the Zoology Department at Mangalore University, and Sushma Manoj, founder of Jnana Kala Institute, served as judges. IQAC coordinator Chetana K., student welfare officer Tressy Pinto, and cultural coordinator Samitha were present. Students showcased a variety of performances, including singing, dance, drama, and comedy acts, reflecting vibrant participation and creativity across all classes.

Farmer's decorated hallikar bulls steal the show

Doddaballapur

In a unique display of affection for traditional farming culture, a farmer from Hosahalli Thanda drew attention at his son's wedding by tying a decorated pair of Hallikar bulls at the entrance of the Kalyana Mandapam. Yellappa, a devoted farmer, says bullocks are the true backbone of the country and no farmer can forget the prosperity they bring. His family has been rearing the Hallikar breed for generations and still maintains four pairs at home. At his son Manoj's grand wedding at Mangalya Mandapam in Shantinagar, it wasn't the bride and groom but the beautifully adorned bulls that became the center of attraction. Yellappa had long decided that his son's marriage would take place only after ensuring space to showcase the beloved bull pair at the venue.

Auto driver's suicide attempt sparks protest in Chitradurga

A suicide attempt by auto driver Tippeswamy in Chitradurga has triggered police scrutiny, public concern, and massive protests by drivers

CHITRADURGA

In Chitradurga, Superintendent of Police Ranjith Kumar Bandaru addressed the media regarding the suicide attempt by auto driver Tippeswamy from Malappanahatti. He clarified that if any police personnel are found at fault, an inquiry led by the Additional SP will be conducted and appropriate action will follow.

According to the SP, the auto was moving in the wrong direction, prompting police to stop it. Officers suspected the driver was intoxicated based on his behavior. When they attempted to check him, he tried to flee after parking the auto, leading the police to intervene and bring him back for questioning.

Responding to queries on alleged assault, the SP stated that CCTV footage from the spot would be thoroughly examined and action will be taken if any wrongdoing is found.

Around 9:50 pm, Tippeswamy reportedly poured petrol on himself at Gandhi Circle after surrounding the area with fire and accidentally caught flames. He was first treated at the district hospital and later shifted to SS Hospital in Davangere for advanced care. The SP confirmed that the department is assisting with his treatment and has been coordinating with Davangere police officials.

Expressing disappointment, the SP said that bystanders could have intervened when the man was trying to set himself on fire. Even after he ignited, no one rushed to help immediately, which he termed disheartening.

Meanwhile, hundreds of auto drivers gathered at Gandhi Circle, blocking the road and staging a protest since morning. They condemned police behavior, demanded justice, and urged authorities to support Tippeswamy, who has suffered over 50% burns. They insisted that auto drivers be treated respectfully, proper parking spots be designated, and strict action be taken against those responsible. They warned of an intensified agitation if their demands are ignored.

Jarkiholi opposes crediting few leaders for Cong Party's win

Satish Jarkiholi rejected claims that Congress won power because of a few leaders, stressing collective effort while addressing leadership tensions in Karnataka politics

BELAGAVI

Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi openly voiced his disagreement with the notion that Congress came to power in Karnataka solely because of a few leaders. Without naming Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, he delivered a sharp indirect counter, stating that such claims are unacceptable.

Speaking to the media in Belagavi, Jarkiholi said that Congress's victory was the result of the support of 1.25 crore voters. "We became MLAs and ministers because of the people. One should maintain limits. Claiming that everything happened because of one person is completely wrong," he said. He added that many people worked both directly and indirectly to bring Congress to power. Drawing a comparison, he said that when Tenzing Norgay climbed Mt. Everest in 1960, global newspapers highlighted only his name, ignoring the 14 others who climbed with him. "This situation is similar," he remarked.

He stressed that every leader, including first-time MLAs, worked tirelessly, and everyone deserves equal recognition. While leaders naturally stake their claims, he said, credit cannot be monopolised by a handful. He also pointed out that former KPCC president Dr. G. Parameshwara led the party for seven years and contributed significantly.

Commenting on Parameshwara expressing interest in the Chief Minister's post, Jarkiholi said there was nothing wrong in that. "We too are aspirants. SC, ST and minority communities are key voters for Congress, and they must be represented," he added.

Responding to questions on the alleged 2.5-year power-sharing formula, he said discussions, if any, happened in Delhi, not Bengaluru. He expressed confidence that the High Command would soon settle the leadership issues, as AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge had already held meetings.

When asked about his own CM aspirations, Jarkiholi declined to comment.

Folk University sets record with 3-hour result turnaround

HAVERI

Gotagodi Folk University in Shiggaon taluk, Haveri district, has set a remarkable benchmark in education by announcing examination results just three hours after the exams concluded. The university evaluated answer sheets from six sections and released results for 460 students in record time. This swift process was executed under the leadership of Registrar Dr. K. Shivashankar, showcasing efficient coordination, technological use, and streamlined human-resource management.

Before the 2024–25 second and fourth semester exams, Registrar Dr. Shivashankar and Vice-Chancellor Prof. T.M. Bhaskar held a meeting with lecturers and decided to fast-track the evaluation process. As a result, the university promptly declared results for the second semester of Folk Literature, Journalism and Mass Communication, Kannada and Folklore, MBA RTM, MBA Tourism, and the second and fourth semesters of MA Folklore Science.

Dr. Shekhar Halasagi elected as Teachers' Association president

BELAGAVI

In Belagavi, the executive committee meeting of the Karnataka State High School Assistant Teachers' Association (R), Bengaluru, was held at the Government Employees' Bhavan under the leadership of State President Siddabasappa Navar. During the session, Dr. Shekhar Halasagi, a teacher at KPM Government High School and a well-known organizer, was unanimously chosen as the new president of the Kittur Taluk High School Assistant Teachers' Association. He was formally honored and felicitated on the occasion.

State General Secretary Devaraje Gowda, Basanagouda Konati, District In-charge President Panduranga Pandave, S.S. Malagali, K.S. Talawar, B.D. Haligeppanavar, Dharwad District President Bhajantri, Praveen Patil, Parvata Gowdar, Praveen Hosur, Manju Kajagar from Khanapur, and office-bearers from Ramdurg and Belagavi City Taluk were present.

In their presence, the selection was finalized and later approved and announced by District General Secretary Ashok Khota. The meeting highlighted the collective support of members and recognized Dr. Halasagi's contributions to academic and organizational activities, marking a new leadership phase for the Kittur Taluk unit of the association.

'Samagama-2025' highlights legacy of Vivekananda hospital

HUBBALLI

Vivekananda General Hospital, known for its 97-year legacy of service in North Karnataka, hosted the 'Samagama-2025' event at a private hotel in Hubballi. Speaking on the occasion, the hospital's vice-president and noted industrialist Keshav Desai said the institution has become a trusted name across the state for quality medical care. He noted that the adoption of advanced equipment and modern operation theaters in recent years has strengthened patient confidence.

Desai highlighted that the hospital provides treatment for both common and rare diseases, supported by nationally and internationally recognized specialists. He emphasized that the management and doctors are dedicated to offering affordable care with compassion, resulting in thousands of patients recovering and leading healthy lives.

Established in 1929 as a women's hospital, Vivekananda General Hospital was later transformed into a public charitable facility in 1995 by the late Dr. Hardikar and Dr. Mahajan. Under the leadership of the late visionary Netvar Lal Sanghvi, the hospital underwent major expansion, emerging as one of the region's most trusted healthcare centers. Today, it operates with 150 beds, advanced digital X-ray units, CT and ultrasound facilities.

Hospital Chairman Kamal Mehta said the institution is committed to the goal of "healthcare for all." Patients from neighboring states also visit due to the hospital's reputation. Services include cardiology, nephrology, neurology, neurosurgery, plastic surgery, pediatrics, emergency care, and modern ICUs.

A highlight of the event was the felicitation of Dr. Virendra Bhasme, who entered the India Book of Records after successfully performing knee surgery on a 101-year-old patient. Several senior doctors and dignitaries attended the programme, with Dr. Manjula Huggi welcoming the gathering and CEO Dr. Rahul offering thanks.

MLA warns against middlemen creating fertilizer shortage

HARAPANAHALLI

Farmers are facing serious difficulties this monsoon due to an artificial shortage of fertilizers, allegedly created by private dealers and middlemen selling seeds and farm inputs, said Jagalur MLA B. Devendrappa. Addressing a gathering at Hosakote village, he stressed that these brokers are exploiting farmers for profit and urgent measures are needed to safeguard them.

He was speaking after inaugurating the equipment distribution programme under the National Food and Nutritional Security Mission, along with a training session on agricultural practices for the rabi season. Devendrappa emphasised that strict monitoring is required to ensure farmers receive genuine fertilizers and seeds at the right time. Deputy Director of Agriculture Dr. Naeem Pasha, who also addressed the event, said that as modern technology advances, agricultural methods must evolve as well. Excessive use of urea has led to declining soil health and reduced crop yields, he cautioned.

Illegal sand mining rises in Yadgir; allegations of officials aiding mafia

YADGIR

Illegal sand extraction from the Krishna River has been increasing rapidly across the district, with serious allegations emerging that certain officials are colluding with the sand mafia. Local residents and leaders claim that the unchecked exploitation is causing massive financial losses to the government, estimated in crores.

In Surpur taluk—particularly in areas such as Sugur, Mushtahalli, and Hemmadagi—unauthorised sand mining has become rampant. Trucks are said to be transporting sand openly, even in broad daylight, without fear of action. Locals allege that some government officials are directly supporting the illegal operators, while others who are supposed to curb the activity have remained silent, turning a blind eye to the ongoing violations.

Despite repeatedly bringing the issue to the attention of concerned authorities, no concrete action has been taken so far. Residents state that illegal sand transportation continues every day, worsening the ecological damage to the river and surrounding regions.

Frustrated by the lack of response, local leaders have issued a warning. They have demanded that the responsible departments immediately clamp down on the sand mafia and end the unlawful operations. If the authorities continue to ignore the issue, they say they will be forced to launch a public protest to safeguard the river and prevent further exploitation.

Kalaburagi event honours Sugayya Hiremath's legacy

KALABURAGI

Professor Sugayya Hiremath, renowned as a rebel writer and thinker, lived an authentic folk life that reflected the essence of the land. His progressive ideas and fearless voice made him a role model for today's young writers, said Prof. Shivaraj Patil, President of the Mahantajyoti Foundation.

He was speaking after inaugurating the programme "Prof. Sugayya Hiremath: A Reflection on Life and Literature" organised jointly by the Sugayya Hiremath Literary and Cultural Foundation and the Sarvodaya Development Service Sangha at Visveshwara Bhavan in Kalaburagi on Sunday.

Prof. Patil said that even after his passing, Sugayya continues to live through his impactful writings. He was a person of simplicity, integrity, and straightforward speech—qualities that helped him spread the fragrance of Kannada culture across the region.

Chief guest and writer-doctor Dr. S.S. Gubbi noted that Sugayya was a rational and objective writer whose poetry exposed the realities and structures of society.

Dr. Gavisiddappa Patil, President of Sirigannada Vedike and Sakshi Foundation, presented an overview of Sugayya's literary contributions. Writer Dr. C.C. Ninganna spoke about Sugayya's social thought, while journalist-author Dr. Shivarajan Satyampete discussed his command over regional language and his rebellious literary stance. Lecturer Prof. K. Veerappa shared personal memories of his association with Sugayya.

The event was presided over by Trust Honorary President P. Manu Sagar. Nataraj Sugayya Hiremath and Vice-President Girimallappa Haraval were also present on the dais.

Shankargowda Patil anchored the programme, Chidananda Hiremath delivered the welcome address, and Kushal Yadawalli proposed the vote of thanks. Many literary enthusiasts, including Prof. S.L. Patil, Kanakappa Billawa, Mahesh Kulkarni, Babu Mitekari, and Manjunath Patil, attended the programme.

HUSBAND KILLS WIFE

Kolar woman strangled to death by husband over suspicion

KOLAR

In Kolar's Jannaghatta village, a woman was allegedly murdered by her husband after he repeatedly suspected her frequent visits to her parental home. The victim, Kavya, had reportedly faced constant harassment from her husband Shivraj, who eventually strangled her to death. Following a complaint from her parents, the police arrested the accused.

According to investigators, Shivraj, who worked as an auto driver, often quarreled with his wife, suspecting her loyalty. On November 21, an argument escalated into a violent fight where both exchanged blows. Enraged, Shivraj allegedly pushed Kavya to the ground, sat on her chest, and strangled her. After committing the crime around midday, he roamed outside until evening, later pretending to discover his wife unconscious. Neighbours helped take her to the hospital, but doctors confirmed she had been dead for several hours, raising suspicion.

Kavya's parents lodged a complaint, leading to Shivraj's arrest. During interrogation, he admitted to killing his wife. Police revealed that the couple had been married for eight years and had a seven-year-old daughter. Over time, disagreements grew, with Shivraj suspecting Kavya's visits to her parental home and allegedly humiliating her for not bearing a male child. He also pressured her to bring money from her family and was known to assault her during disputes.

Despite several attempts at reconciliation through family interventions, Shivraj's mistrust persisted. On the day of the incident, after sending their daughter to school, another argument erupted, turning violent. Shivraj then strangled Kavya, a fact confirmed during the investigation.

QUICK READ

14-foot king cobra safely rescued in Sirsi

Sirsi

A massive 14-foot king cobra was safely rescued in Sirsi after getting trapped in a snare placed to protect an orchard from wild boars. For two days, the snake had been seen in the garden of Prashanth Hegde at Ragihosahalli, where it eventually became stuck in the trap. On noticing the distressed reptile, the plantation owner immediately contacted Kumta-based reptile expert Pawan Kumar Naik. Known across Uttara Kannada for his skill in handling snakes, Pawan rushed to the spot and carefully freed the cobra before releasing it back into the forest. While locals were astonished by the size of the snake, some fled in fear. Pawan explained that king cobras are generally shy and rarely bite unless extremely threatened.

19-year-old teen allegedly runs away with married man

Belagavi

A 19-year-old woman reportedly ran away with a married man, Suresh, who is a father of three children, in Raibag taluk of Belagavi district. The woman's family has approached the Raibag police, alleging that she was abducted by Suresh. The incident has caused a stir in the local community, with relatives expressing concern over the young woman's safety and the implications of her relationship with a married man. According to the complaint, the woman, who was a college student, failed to return home, prompting her family to file a formal case at the Raibag Police Station against Suresh Hullewar. Authorities are reportedly investigating the matter to determine the circumstances and ensure the safety of those involved.

Ram, Lakshman, and Ravana are cruel: Naik sparks controversy

Controversial writer B.T. Lalitha Naik sparked controversy in Davanagere by calling Shri Ram, Lakshman, and Ravana cruel, not ideal figures

DAVANAGERE

Controversial writer and rebel author B.T. Lalitha Naik has stirred debate by asserting that characters like Shri Ram, Lakshman, and Ravana in the epic Ramayana are not ideal figures but, in fact, cruel. She made these remarks during the closing session of a discussion seminar held at A.V.K. Women's College auditorium in Davanagere.

Lalitha Naik criticized the traditional portrayal of these characters, pointing out acts of violence and questionable morality.

She highlighted incidents such as Lakshman cutting Shurpanakha's nose, Shri Ram isolating Sita in the forest over suspicion, and Ravana abducting Sita, which ruined her life. According to her, depicting such actions under the guise of devotion misleads people into accepting cruelty as virtue.

She further emphasized that blind faith mixed with ignorance has dulled critical thinking among society. While temples sometimes promote superstition, libraries and education guide people toward knowledge. She argued that literature and epics are often shaped by human errors, reflecting both virtues and flaws.

Naik also compared other epics, stating that Ramayana and Mahabharata similarly present complex moral dilemmas. She noted the contrast with figures like Buddha, who carried no weapons, and Mahatma Gandhi, who held only a spinning wheel, yet were revered for their ideals. She expressed concern over recent portrayals of Shri Ram wielding weapons such as bows and arrows, suggesting that such depictions deviate from the intended moral and spiritual teachings.

Her remarks have triggered widespread discussion and controversy, drawing strong reactions from both literary circles and the general public regarding the interpretation of sacred texts.

Sugarcane MSP row: Min hits back at Central govt allegations

HUBBALLI

Minister of Sugar and Sugarcane Development Shivanand Patil criticizes the Central government for misleading farmers on sugarcane MSP, highlighting state support and BJP factory influence

Minister of Sugar and Sugarcane Development, Shivanand Patil voiced his strong criticism of the Central government over the ongoing debate on Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) and Minimum Support Price (MSP) for sugarcane farmers. The minister reacted sharply to Union Minister Pralhad Joshi's claim that the state government was shifting blame for issues faced by sugarcane growers.

Patil pointed out that the President of the Private Sugar Factory Owners' Association in the state is a BJP member and that many factories belong to leaders from Joshi's party. Despite being aware of the problems, a report falsely suggested that no progress has been made, he said, demanding clarification from Minister Joshi.

The minister highlighted that the Karnataka government has provided Rs 200 above the fixed FRP per tonne in most areas, and in some regions, farmers received Rs 300–350 extra. He emphasized that the sale, control, and export-import of sugar and ethanol fall under the central government's jurisdiction. "It is unfair to criticize the state while creating confusion," he added.

Patil also mentioned that efforts are underway to provide MSP support for maize, but the responsibility for fixing it rests with the central government. Repeated statements by Pralhad Joshi and former CM Basavaraj Bommai, targeting Karnataka, are misleading the public, he said.

On internal party matters, Patil clarified that the Chief Minister's powers, cabinet expansion, and restructuring decisions are final decisions of the high command. While the details of discussions between CM Siddaramaiah and AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge remain unknown, he asserted that the party would stand united regardless.

PSI scam accused claims warden assaulted him

KALABURAGI

Tensions erupted at the central prison between R.D. Patil, a key accused in the alleged PSI recruitment scam, and Jail Warden Shivkumar. Reports indicate that Patil, who had recently been granted interim bail by the Supreme Court for three weeks, claimed that Warden Shivkumar physically assaulted him and denied his release. In response, Shivkumar alleged that Patil also attacked him during the confrontation. Both parties have filed separate complaints regarding the incident. Police sources confirmed that complaints have been officially registered at the Farhatabad Police Station, and investigations are underway. Authorities are looking into the clash to determine the circumstances and take appropriate action.

'Umeed' portal records 74% progress in uploading waqf properties in DK

MANGALURU

The process of uploading details of Waqf institutions on the 'Umeed' portal in Dakshina Kannada district is making steady progress, with approximately 74% of Waqf properties already documented, according to sources from the Dakshina Kannada District Waqf Office.

The state waqf Minister has directed that all property records of Waqf institutions be uploaded to the portal by November 27, 2025. This initiative aims to maintain transparency, accurate records, and proper management of waqf assets, including mosques, madrasas, and burial grounds.

District Waqf Office officials have urged the administrative heads of the remaining institutions to cooperate promptly.

They are requested to submit complete details of their respective properties without delay. The president or secretary of each institution's managing committee must coordinate with the District waqf Office to ensure timely data entry on the Umeed portal.

Officials emphasized that proper documentation on the portal will aid in better governance of waqf assets, facilitate planning, and help prevent misuse or disputes over property.

Kantheerava Studio to be established in Shivamogga

SHIVAMOGGA

In a major step to strengthen the Kannada film industry, the Kantheerava Studio Corporation plans to establish a state-of-the-art studio in Shivamogga, announced Mohabub Basha, Chairman of the Kantheerava Studio Corporation. Speaking at a press conference held at Prathika Bhavan on Sunday, he said the move is aimed at expanding the studio network across Karnataka and supporting local filmmaking talent.

The corporation has received substantial demand from districts across the state, prompting the decision to set up the studio in Shivamogga. Officials have identified a suitable 25-acre plot along state and district roads, and a formal request has been submitted to the Deputy Commissioner for land allocation.

Shivamogga, known for its rich Kannada cultural heritage and talented artists, is expected to benefit from both indoor and outdoor filming facilities.

The project aims to preserve the Kannada language, nurture artistic talent, and generate employment opportunities in the region.

The initiative also includes plans to establish studios in other central Karnataka districts, including Chitradurga, Davanagere, Chikkamagaluru, and Vijayanagara. The government has already allocated ₹5 crore in the budget for this purpose. Additionally, a Ramoji Film City-style facility is being constructed on 160 acres in Mysuru.

To promote Kannada content on digital platforms, the corporation has requested the Chief Minister's approval to launch a dedicated OTT platform for Kannada films and television. The project has received state backing, and committees have already held meetings to finalize designs and plans. Basha emphasized that the initiative will globally showcase Karnataka's culture and rural life while strengthening the language and film industry.

Mekedatu project to submerge 1,079 hectares across 5 villages

MANDYA

The district administration has revealed that the proposed Mekedatu drinking water and balancing reservoir project will require 1,079 hectares of forest land across five villages in Malavalli taluk. District Collector Dr. Kumar stated that to compensate for the submerged area, forest-department-approved non-forest land must be provided at a 1:1 ratio.

Previously, 2,204 hectares of land were identified for this purpose, but the earlier allocation will no longer be used. Instead, the authorities have instructed that suitable forest and government lands totaling 1,079 hectares be earmarked and handed over to the Forest Department. So far, 307 hectares in Pandavapura and Nagamangala have been identified, and the department has issued suitability certificates for these areas. The remaining 757 hectares must be surveyed, documented, and certified within 15 days. The collector emphasized that a team comprising the taluk-level Tahsildar, ACF, ADLR, and officers from the Cauvery Irrigation Corporation will jointly conduct surveys to identify appropriate non-forest lands. Officials must ensure that the designated lands are free from any encroachments or legal disputes. Detailed surveys and sketches of the identified plots are mandatory.

Deputy Commissioner M. Shivamurthy, Cauvery Irrigation Corporation Executive Engineer K. Raghuraman, DFO Raghu, taluk-level forest officers, and other officials participated in the meeting.

Children's Day celebrated at Shakti Residential School

MANGALURU

The Shakti Residential School in Shaktinagar celebrated Children's Day with great enthusiasm at the Reshma Memorial Auditorium. The program was inaugurated by the school principal, Babith Suraj, who lit the ceremonial lamp along with the young students and offered floral tributes to a portrait of India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Addressing the students, Principal Suraj emphasized the importance of nurturing values and curiosity from an early age. He highlighted that just as a sapling grows strong with roots and branches, children must develop a foundation of moral values and interests to grow into responsible and confident individuals. He urged students to cultivate good habits, pursue their passions, and strive for holistic development in life.

The program also saw active participation from the teaching staff. Teacher Vidya Lakshmi welcomed the gathering, while Teacher Maria offered her respects. Teacher Nayan provided insights into the significance of Children's Day, explaining its role in honoring the rights, welfare, and growth of young minds.

The celebration included cultural activities and interactions that encouraged students to express themselves, fostering creativity and joy.

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED
FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD
CIN : U65923KL2010PLC039179
Regd Office: IV/470A (OLD) W/638A (NEW) Manappuram House Valapad Thrissur, Kerala 680567
Corp Office: Manappuram Home Finance Limited, Third Floor, Unit No. 301 to 315, A Wing, 'Kanakia Wall Street', Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai-400093, Maharashtra.
Phone No.: 022-66211000, **Website:** www.manappuramhomefin.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the Authorized Officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd., having our registered office at IV/470A (old) w/638A (new), Manappuram House, Valapad, Thrissur, Kerala-680567 and branches at various places in India (hereinafter referred to as "MAHOFIN") is a Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and a Financial Institution within the meaning of sub-clause (iv) of clause (m) of sub-section (1) of Section 2 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002 (hereinafter referred so as the Act) read with Notification No. S.O. 3466 (E) dated 18th December, 2015 issued by the Govt. of India, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi, inter alia carrying on business of advancing loans for construction and / or purchase of dwelling units and whereas the Borrower / Co-Borrowers as mentioned in Column No. 2 of the below mentioned chart obtained loan from MAHOFIN and whereas MAHOFN being the secured creditor under the SARFAESI Act, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 2 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice calling upon the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers as mentioned herein below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served upon some of them for various reasons. That in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name Of The Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Lan/Branch	Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created	Npa Date	Date Of Notice Sent & Outstanding Amount
1	Indramma S, Lohitha S, Megharaja S, /MLAP0051023332/ Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There on Being Bearing Site/Property No. 15, E-Property No. 152400403300300047, Measuring East- West 30.48 X North-South 12.4968 Meter, Total 380.90 Sq. Meter, Including105.91 Sq. Meter Building, Situated At Shiddihalli Village, Thogarsi Village Panchayath, Shikaripura Taluk, Shivamogga District, Karnataka - 577433. East-Road, West Survey Number, South- Property of Jayamma W/O Ramesha, North-Property of Ramappa S/O Hanumanthappa	16-10-2025	21-10-2025 & Rs.162678/-
2	Mala R, Ramegowda K, Raghu R, /MA90MHLONS 000005007212/ Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of Property Bearing Mundugadore Gramapanchayathi Khatha No. 17/B And As Per Form No. 11 B Unique No. 15210070160080111 4 Situated At Mundugadore Village, Srirangapattana Taluk, Within The Jurisdiction of Mundugadore Gramapanchayathi With Dimension of The Schedule Property: East To West 6.096 Meters And North To South : 15.84 Meters In Karnataka - 571807. East-Galli And House of Mahadevamma, West- Galli And House of Puttegowda, South-Drainage And Road, North-Galli And House of Kumar	16-10-2025	21-10-2025 & Rs.175483/-
3	Bhagya R, Guruvachari C, Siddaraju G, Manu G, /MA90MHLONS 000005008262/ Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing H. Malligere Gramapanchayathi Khatha No. 367/305/3 And As Per Form No. 9 And 11 A Unique No. 152100406000400439 Situated At H. Malligere, Mandya Taluk, Measuring East To West 6.55 Meters And North To South : 9.82 Meters, Mandya, Karnataka, Pin: 571434. East-Passage, West-Property of Ramaradhya, South-Road, North-House of Rajamma	18-10-2025	21-10-2025 & Rs.203142/-
4	Akkamma Ningappa Byadager, Puttappa Byadiger, Ningappa Tirukappa Byadager, /MLAP0048000152/ Davangare	All That Peace & Parcel of The Property G.P No. 313, Unique No. 151700503100120089, Situated At Hulikatti Village & Post, Nadiharahalli. Ranebennur Taluka And Haveri District. Total Land Area 184.03 Sq.mtrs In That Construction Area of 53.44 Measuring East & West 7.012 Meter, North & South 7.621 Meter Karnataka, Pin: 581145. East-Road, West-Keshappa Miller Property, South-Nagappa Sannakotrappa Property, North-Keshappa Miller Property	18-10-2025	21-10-2025 & Rs.165255/-
5	Afsana A, Asif A, Abdulrehaman M, /MLAP0051002734/ Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel Of Site Along With Structure Standing There On Being Bearing Site/Property No. 80/2, E-Property No. 152400503300520024 Total 222.83 Sq. Meter,Including 55.66 Sq. Meter House, Situated At Maleshankara Village, Sirigere Villagepanchayath, Shivamogga Taluk, Shivamogga District Karnataka, Pin: 577211. East-Land of Abdul Rehaman Sab, West-Road, South-Place of Abdul Rehama Sab, North-House of Nurulla Sab	18-10-2025	21-10-2025 & Rs.313331/-
6	Umesh E, H D Eraiah, Thopa Mma, /NLAP0090038303/ Vivekananda Circle	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property No. 32-503-54, S.A.S. No.6446/11/B, Situated At Ward No. 15, Basaveshwara Block, Krishnarajanagara Town & Mysore (D). Measuring: E-W: 18.288037 Meter & N-S: 12.192024 Meter Admeasuring: 222.9682 Sq Mts. Pin 571602, Karnataka. East-Road, West-H Bcs Site, South-Site No. 11C, North-Site No. 11A	18-10-2025	21-10-2025 & Rs.527432/-
7	Imdad Faraz Khan, Dilshad Unnisa, Habeeb Khan, /NLAP0051004647/ Shimoga	Pl.D. No. 25932, Ward No. 25, Property No. 177/2-797/2, Total Measuring 546 Sq.ft, Opp Benkeshwara, Rice Mill Old Mandli, City Muncipal Corporation, Shimoga, P.O. Gajanur, Shimoga, Karnataka, Pin: 577202. East-Property Belongs To Tanveer Khan S/O Ajizes Khan, West-Nt Road, South-Property Belongs To Mohamed Nassir, North-Common Ooni and Mohiddin Khan Property	19-10-2025	24-10-2025 & Rs.668180/-
8	Indramma B, Boodigowda N, Punith B B, /MLAP0091006389/ Hassan	All Piece And Parcel of The Site And House Property Bearing No.151600700500800107, Gram Panchayath Property No. 105,-Survey No. 70/9 Situated At Beeranahalli Village, Malappanahalli Gram Panchayath, Holenarasipura Taluk, Hassan District An Measuring: East To West: 13.1064Meters And North To South: 15. 5448 Meters, Totally Measuring 203.73Square Meters And Constructed Plinth Area 203.73 Square Meters, Karnataka, 573211. East-11FeetOwn Property And Property Belongs To Harisha, West-Conservancy And Samudayabhavana, South-Property Belongs To Sri Chikkabasappa, North-Road	20-10-2025	24-10-2025 & Rs.436514/-
9	Haleshappa N, Narasimhappa P, Gangamma N, Malikarjun S, /CO10COLONS 000005008808/ Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There On Being Bearing Site/Property No. 67/2, E-Property No. 152400501400220006, Measuring East-West 4.8768 X North-South 27.432 Meter, Total 133.78 Sq. Meter, Situated At Madikechilur-I Village, Hadonahalli Village Panchayath, Shivamogga District, P.O. Bullapura, Shimoga, Karnataka, Pin: 577216. East-Property No. 68, West-Property of Yashodhamma W/O Late, Rangaiah, South-Road, North-Conservancy Road	20-10-2025	24-10-2025 & Rs.513757/-
10	Chandra Shakar, Jyothi Bai, Nagarajnaik, /NHL01420038417/ Hospet	Residential Property Bearing Gramapanchayathi Susheelanagara, Property No. 526/A' P.I.D. No.150500600102100527, Measuring East-West:. 10.30 Meters, And North-South: 4.24 Mtrs, In Total Measuring 43.67 Sq Mtrs, Building Plinth Area 43.67 Sq Meters,. And Situated At Srisheelanagara Village, Susheelanagara Gramapanchayathi Sandur Tq & Bellary Dist, Pin 583119, Karnataka. East-Road, West-Road, South-Venkatesh Naik., North-Bhavanaik	21-10-2025	24-10-2025 & Rs.461008/-
11	Girujamma C, Suneel N, /MHL00510014733/ Shimoga	All That Part And Parcel of The Property Bearing Rdpr Katha No.151000503000320022, As Per Gram Panchayat Record Property No.7 Measuring East To West 7.62 Sq. Meter And North To South 10.668 Sq Meter In Total 81.29 Sq. Meter House Property Situated At Krishnapura, Hebballi Gram Panchayat. Hosadurga Taluk And Chitradurga District, Karnataka-577554. East-Road, West-HouseofDasappa, South-Road, North-Road	21-10-2025	27-10-2025 & Rs.198515/-
12	Shruthi M, Dileep A, /MHL00510014787/ Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There on Being Bearing Site/Khatha/Property No. 9, E-Property No. 151000401800220017, Measuring East-West 4.5 X North-South 21.64 Meter, Total 97.38 Sq. Meter, Including 97.38 Sq. Meter Situated At Hosahatti Village, N.G. Halli Village Panchayath, Holalkere Taluk, Chitradurga District, Karnataka - 577539. East-House of Shanthappa, West-House of Rangappa, South-Road, North-Road	22-10-2025	27-10-2025 & Rs.131109/-

Notice, is therefore given to the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers, as mentioned herein above, calling upon them to make payment of the total outstanding amount as shown herein above, against the respective Borrower / Co-Borrower, within 60 days of publication of this notice. Failure to make payment of the total outstanding amount together with further interest by the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower, MAHOFIN shall be constrained to take u/s 13(4) for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described above, steps are also being taken for service of notice in other manners as prescribed under the Act and the rules made hereunder. You are put to notice that the said mortgage can be redeemed upon payment of the entire amount due together with costs, charges and expenses incurred by MAHOFIN at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or private treaty for transfer by way of sale, as detailed in Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act.
Take note that in terms of S-13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby restrained from transferring and/or dealing with the Secured Properties in any manner by way of sale, lease or in any other manner.
Date: 24th November 2025 | Place: KARNATAKA **Sd/- Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd**

VATAL DEFENDS SIDDARAMAIAH

No leader can replace Siddaramaiah now: Vatal Nagaraj

MANGALURU

Kannada activist and former MLA Vatal Nagaraj has strongly defended Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, warning that any attempt to replace him would be "playing with fire" and could spark statewide unrest. Speaking to reporters in Mangaluru on Sunday, Nagaraj asserted that no current political party in Karnataka, including Congress, BJP, or JD(S), has a leader capable of filling Siddaramaiah's role. Praising the CM's leadership, he highlighted Siddaramaiah's over seven years of efficient governance, his innovative ideas, and administrative capabilities, emphasizing that his removal is unnecessary and could lead to widespread protests, with thousands willing to risk imprisonment.

On the prospect of a Dalit chief minister, Nagaraj suggested it could be considered only after Siddaramaiah completes his tenure, noting the CM's extensive experience, including presenting the state budget 13–14 times and serving as Deputy Chief Minister, which strengthens the Congress and lends respect to the office.

Nagaraj also announced that Kannada organisations will convene a convention in Bengaluru in the second week of December, followed by highway protests on Gundlupet–Wayanad and Mangaluru–Kasaragod routes to oppose the "imposition of Malayalam" in Kerala's Kasaragod district. He alleged that Malayalam-speaking teachers in Kannada-medium schools and prioritization of Malayalam are weakening Kannada language and culture.

Expressing concern over outsiders occupying key positions, especially in the IT-BT sector, Nagaraj urged the government to implement job reservations for locals per the Sarojini Mahishi Report. He emphasized that Karnataka must seriously reconsider its approach to Kasaragod to preserve local language, culture, and employment opportunities for Kannadigas.

QUICK READ

Anandpur Sahib resonates with slogans

Anandpur Sahib
This holy city resonated with the slogans of 'Bole So Nihal, Sat Sri Akal' on Sunday as crowds of devotees started converging here for the beginning of three-day commemorative events to mark the supreme sacrifice of 'Hind Di Chadar', the ninth Sikh Guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur, who laid the foundation stone of the city in 1665 and named it Chak Nanaki after his mother, Mata Nanaki. Accompanying AAP national Convenor Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann attended Akhand Path at Gurdwara Sahib, near Baba Budha Dal Chhauni, here.

One killed, 12 injured as tourist vehicle rams into stationary truck

Umaria
One person was killed and 12 others were injured in a road accident in the Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh on Sunday morning, triggering shock and outrage in the region. The accident occurred near the Barambaba temple under the Chandia police station area when a tourist vehicle carrying visitors, reportedly from Kolkata, rammed into a parked truck at around 5.30 on Sunday. The tourists were returning from a safari at the renowned Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve and were en route to Khajuraho when the collision took place. Eyewitnesses described a loud crash as the speeding vehicle lost control and slammed into the stationary truck.

Six killed in two road accidents in Andhra Pradesh

Visakhapatnam
Six people were killed and 16 others injured in two separate road accidents in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday. Four people were killed and six others injured when a Multi-Utility Vehicle (MUV) rammed into a stationary truck in Andhra Pradesh's Srikakulam district in the wee hours of Sunday. The accident occurred on the national highway near Yetturallapadu village in Kotabommali mandal. According to police, the vehicle carrying pilgrims from Madhya Pradesh rammed into the stationary truck from behind. Police and the patrolling staff of the highway rushed to the spot and launched rescue and relief operations. The pilgrims were heading to the Srisailam temple for darshan.

Punjab Protests Centre's Chandigarh Autonomy Shift

Punjab's political parties unite in strong opposition after Centre proposes bringing Chandigarh under Article 240 through constitutional amendment

CHANDIGARH

A major political controversy has gripped Punjab following the Centre's move to bring Chandigarh under the purview of Article 240 of the Constitution, a provision that empowers the President to directly frame regulations for certain Union Territories. The proposal, hinted through a Parliament bulletin announcing the likely introduction of the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2025 during the Winter Session starting December 1, has triggered vehement protests across the state's political spectrum.

Currently, Chandigarh is

administered by the Governor of Punjab and functions as the shared capital of Punjab and Haryana. The city was designated a Union Territory in 1966 when Haryana was carved out of Punjab. Ever since, Punjab's political leadership has consistently asserted that Chandigarh rightfully belongs to the state, arguing that Haryana should establish its own capital.

The Centre's plan to place Chandigarh under Article 240 — a provision that presently applies to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu — has been criticised by parties including the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Congress and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD). Leaders from these parties have termed the proposal anti-Punjab and a direct challenge to the state's historical claim over Chandigarh.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann strongly condemned the move, alleging that the BJP-led central government was conspiring to snatch Punjab's capital. Reiterating Punjab's emotional and historical attachment to the city, he declared, Chandigarh was, is and will always remain an integral part of the state. Mann added that Punjab had sacrificed several villages to build Chandigarh and therefore held the rightful ownership.

AAP national convenor and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also criticised the Centre's intentions, calling the step an assault on Punjab's identity and accusing the government of attempting to undermine federal principles.

18,000 Srimushnam Farmers Added to Cauvery Zone

Tamil Nadu expands Cauvery delta benefits to Srimushnam taluk, granting thousands of farmers irrigation support and paddy cultivation packages

CHENNAI

In a major boost to agricultural development, more than 18,000 farmers across 38 revenue panchayats in the newly formed Srimushnam taluk of Cuddalore district have been brought under the ambit of the Cauvery delta protected agricultural zone. The move follows a government order issued by the Water Resources Department, giving effect to Chief Minister M. K. Stalin's announcement made during a public event in Cuddalore on July 15.

With this inclusion, farmers in Srimushnam will now receive all benefits available to cultivators in the core delta districts, including Kuruvai and Samba cultivation packages and irrigation-related schemes. The decision significantly widens the protected zone and ensures that farmers in these panchayats gain access to vital support such as subsidies, assured water allocations, and technical assistance that are crucial for sustaining paddy cycles.

Senior officials said the order brings 10,550 hectares of land under the protected zone, marking a key policy move aimed at strengthening agricultural resilience. Many of the 18,250 beneficiaries rely entirely on canal irrigation and seasonal river flows, making their livelihoods highly dependent on water availability during the crucial cultivation months.

A senior Agriculture Department official noted that the decision would directly stabilise farming operations and boost productivity in regions whose soil characteristics and irrigation needs mirror those of the delta.

Water Resources Department Secretary J. Jayakanthan, in the order, explained that the inclusion followed extensive consultations with domain experts, Cauvery technical cell engineers, and the district administration. Their detailed assessment confirmed that the soil profile, water resources, and agricultural patterns of these panchayats were consistent with those of the larger Cauvery delta, providing a strong rationale for their formal recognition.

The move is expected to improve water security, reduce climate vulnerability, and enhance long-term agricultural sustainability in Srimushnam.

Cyclone Senyar: Met Office predicts delayed arrival of winter in south Bengal

KOLKATA

The Met office on Sunday said that the onset of winter in south Bengal districts and Kolkata will depend on whether cyclone Senyar, which is likely to form in the Bay of Bengal this week, have any direct or indirect impact on the weather system here.

According to the Regional Meteorological Centre in Kolkata's Alipore, a low-pressure area has formed over the Bay of Bengal, and it is likely to intensify into a depression around November 24. A cyclonic storm is likely to develop in the Bay of Bengal around November 26. The cyclonic storm identified as Senyar, a name given by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), will be the second cyclone to develop in the Bay of Bengal in post post-monsoon season.

It may be noted that Cyclone Montha had crossed coastal Andhra Pradesh near Kakinada on October 28 as a severe cyclone.

So far, the weather officials are not sure about the path and direction cyclone Senyar would take once it is formed. However, the weather system in coastal Bengal is likely to be affected.

We are now keeping an eye on the low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal. It will gradually develop into a depression tomorrow and by Wednesday into a cyclonic storm. If the system moves towards the Bengal and Odisha coast, then it will have a direct impact on the weather here. This will thwart the onset of winter in South Bengal districts and Kolkata as the temperature will be pushed up, said a met department official.

During the 2026 voter list revision, Rajasthan's BLOs displayed exceptional commitment, overcoming hardships to ensure flawless electoral records

Rajasthan Women BLOs Shine in Special Intensive Revision Drive

JAIPUR

The accuracy of India's voter list forms the foundation of its democratic processes, and Booth Level Officers (BLOs) play a pivotal role in maintaining this integrity through extensive fieldwork and meticulous verification. During the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Voter Lists – 2026, several BLOs across Rajasthan demonstrated extraordinary dedication, working relentlessly in challenging conditions to ensure accurate and updated electoral rolls. Among them, Masuda's Kamala and Sri Ganganagar's Samesta have emerged as inspiring examples of commitment and women's empowerment.

Kamala, the BLO for Part No. 215 in the Masuda Assembly Constituency, navigated exceptionally tough terrain in Beawar district to fulfil her responsibilities. Faced with

poor road conditions, weak mobile connectivity and the lack of transport in remote localities, she undertook the demanding task of voter verification with unwavering resolve. Walking nearly 4 kilometres each day from Sobdi village to distant hamlets, she spent long hours collecting forms and returned each evening to complete digitisation work despite patchy networks.

Her dedication bore results: by November 18, Kamala achieved 100 per cent completion in both form distribution and digitisation. Even after meeting her targets, she chose not to rest. On November 19, she began assisting neighbouring booth BLOs with their remaining tasks, reflecting her strong sense of teamwork and service to the community.

Similarly, in Sri Ganganagar district, BLO Samesta balanced her professional duties with demanding responsibilities at home. A second-grade teacher at Raipur School (7 LNP), she managed Part No. 160 of the Ganganagar Assembly constituency while caring for her seven-month-old daughter and five-year-old son. With the support of her husband, Hoshiyaar Singh, she resumed field duties with full determination despite her dual workload. She successfully distributed counting forms to 983 voters and completed digitisation for 806 forms within the prescribed timeline.

AIADMK's key meetings in Chennai on Dec 10

CHENNAI

AIADMK has announced that its General Council and Executive Committee meetings will be held on December 10 at Vanagaram in Chennai. Party general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS) confirmed that both crucial meetings will take place at the Sri Varu Venkatachalapathy Hall, marking an important moment for the organisation as Tamil Nadu heads towards the 2026 Assembly election.

According to the announcement, AIADMK Presidium Chairman Tamilmagan Hussain will preside over the General Council session.

Invitations will be sent to all members of the General Council and Executive Committee, and the communication emphasises that attendance is mandatory for every member.

The timing of the meetings has gained significance as they come ahead of the Assembly election scheduled for next year.

Party sources expect major discussions on the AIADMK's election strategy, alliance formation, and broader political positioning.

EPS, who has been consolidating control over the party, is likely to outline the roadmap for the campaign and initiate preparations for booth-level and district-level organisational strengthening.

The meetings are also expected to be politically charged, given the recent internal turmoil. Veteran leader C. Ve. Shanmugam (Sengottaiyan), once considered one of the senior-most leaders close to the EPS camp, recently rebelled against the leadership.

He demanded that expelled leaders O. Panneerselvam (OPS), T.T.V. Dhinakaran, and V.K. Sasikala be brought back into the party fold.

Sengottaiyan publicly issued a deadline for the leadership to take action, triggering a sharp response from EPS.

Following his open defiance, Sengottaiyan was stripped of his organisational responsibilities. He subsequently appeared alongside OPS, Dhinakaran and Sasikala in public meetings and interviews, signalling a possible realignment among the expelled factions.

₹100-cr drug haul in 4 NE states in a week; 12 held

AIZAWL

Various law enforcement agencies, including the Assam Rifles and the BSF, have intensified their crackdown on narcotics smuggling, seizing drugs worth around Rs 100 crore and arresting 12 peddlers, including four Myanmar nationals, over the past week, officials said on Sunday.

An official said that Assam Rifles, Border Security Force (BSF), Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Excise and Narcotics Department of Mizoram, Tripura, Manipur and Mizoram police either jointly or individual operation have seized the drugs including highly addictive methamphetamine tablets, heroin, cocaine, dry Ganja (marijuana), foreign-origin cigarettes from Mizoram, Tripura, Manipur and Assam.

Nexus among the drug peddlers of Mizoram, Tripura, Assam and Myanmar are conducting the illegal trade of narcotics, whose main hub is Myanmar's Chin state. On November 17, dismantling an international drug syndicate involving Pakistan, in a breakthrough against narcotics trafficking, the Assam Rifles, in a joint operation with the Customs Department, seized 800 gm of cocaine valued at nearly Rs 8 crore and arrested two drug peddlers in Tripura.

A Customs Department official had said that, acting on specific intelligence inputs about a drug-trafficking syndicate smuggling high-purity cocaine into India through the Punjab border from Pakistan, the Agartala Customs Department has busted a major narcotics network operating across multiple states.

₹176-Crore Urban Upgrade

AHMEDABAD

Gandhidham, recently upgraded from a municipality to a municipal corporation, is poised for a major urban transformation as Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel unveiled development works worth Rs 176 crore during his first visit to the city after its new civic status was announced.

The projects, which include a model fire station, smart library, iconic entry gate, upgraded gardens, roads, water and drainage networks, and stormwater systems, aim to give the industrial hub a new identity and redefine its urban landscape.

The city's most symbolic project will be the redevelopment of the stretch from Gopalpuri Gate to Sarvodaya Cricket Ground into an Iconic Gaurav Path, reflecting Gandhidham's economic and cultural significance within Kutch.

Speaking at the event, the Chief Minister said Gandhidham, known as the economic capital of Kutch and one of Gujarat's key industrial centres, is set to reach new heights of development under the state government's urban vision.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's approach of treating urbanisation as an opportunity, not a challenge, has shaped the evolution of Gujarat's cities, the Chief Minister said.

He highlighted that the state government has increased the urban development budget by 40 per cent this year, allocating Rs 30,000 crore to drive holistic city development.

IAF PILOT CREMATION

Wing Cdr Syal Cremated with Full Military Honours

SHIMLA

The mortal remains of Indian Air Force (IAF) pilot Wing Commander Namansh Syal, who lost his life in a Tejas fighter jet crash at the Dubai Air Show, were brought to his native Patiyalkar village in Himachal Pradesh on Sunday and cremated with full military honours. The 34-year-old fighter pilot hailed from Yol near Nagrota Bagwan in Kangra district and was known for his exemplary service record.

Wing Commander Syal was posted at the Hyderabad airbase and is survived by his wife, Afsaan, an IAF officer, and their five-year-old daughter. His parents, Jagan Nath, a former serviceman and later a principal in the Himachal Pradesh Education Department, and his mother Bina Devi, were in Hyderabad to meet him when tragedy struck on November 21. The HAL-designed Tejas Light Combat Aircraft he was flying during a low-altitude display at Dubai's Al Maktoum International Airport reportedly lost control, crashed, and caught fire.

In a tribute shared on X, the Southern Air Command Media Co-ordination Centre said, Honouring Wg Cdr Namansh Syal, who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Dubai Air Show on 21 Nov 2025. His courage, skill, and dedication to the nation will forever inspire us. Gone too soon, but never forgotten.

The IAF, in a statement, described him as a dedicated fighter pilot and thorough professional whose unwavering commitment and dignified demeanour earned deep admiration. Officials noted that UAE authorities, IAF colleagues, friends, and officials from the Indian Embassy attended his solemn send-off.

The IAF stands in solidarity with his family in this hour of profound grief and honours his legacy of courage, devotion and honour, the statement added.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu expressed heartfelt condolences, calling him a brave son of India taken far too soon. Minister for Youth Services and Sports Yadwinder Goma and local MLA Raghubir Singh Bali also attended the ceremony, representing the state government.

QUICK READ

8 members of inter-state dacoity gang arrested in Sundargarh

Bhubaneswar

The Rourkela Police on Sunday arrested eight members of an interstate dacoity gang following gunfights at two locations under the Lahunipada and Chandiposh Police Station limits, in which three members of the gang including the mastermind Chanda Nayak alias Chande of Jharkhand sustained bullet injuries. On November 22, the district police received credible intelligence regarding the movement of an interstate hardcore Chande dacoity gang in the Bonai area of Sundargarh district. Subsequently, the Inspectors-In-Charge of all police stations and the Sub-Divisional Police Officers (SDPOs) in the area were instructed to remain alert.

Ayodhya preps up for flag hoisting ceremony

Ayodhya

The temple town of Ayodhya is once again preparing for a grand celebration as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to participate in the flag-hoisting ceremony at the Ram Janmabhoomi Temple on November 25. The event, being described as historic and spiritually significant, will see PM Modi hoist the sacred flag atop the temple's 'shikhar' (spire). In the run-up to the ceremony, the temple premises and the city are witnessing elaborate preparations. Streets are being decorated, security arrangements strengthened, and devotees from across the country are expected to arrive to witness the moment. The excitement is equally palpable within the saint community.

Navy to Commission Mahe-Class Anti-Submarine Vessel Today

Indian Navy commissions Mahe today in Mumbai, marking arrival of advanced indigenous shallow-water combatants strengthening maritime defence capabilities

MUMBAI

The Indian Navy will commission Mahe, the first vessel of the Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai today, an official said. The ceremony, hosted by Vice-Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, will be presided over by Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi. The commissioning of Mahe marks the induction of a new generation of indigenous shallow-water combatants — sleek, swift and resolutely Indian.

With more than 80 per cent indigenous content, the Mahe-class reflects India's growing expertise in warship design, construction and systems integration. Designed as a "Silent Hunter" for the Western Seaboard, Mahe underscores the Navy's commitment to self-reliance while reinforcing its anti-submarine warfare capability in coastal and shallow waters.

Built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi, Mahe represents a significant milestone in the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative in naval shipbuilding. Compact yet powerful, the craft embodies agility, precision and endurance — all essential qualities for dominance in littoral zones. With its blend of firepower, stealth and high manoeuvrability, the ship is equipped to track submarines, conduct coastal patrols and secure India's critical maritime approaches.

Named after the historic coastal town of Mahe on the Malabar Coast, the vessel carries a crest featuring an Urumi — the flexible Kalaripayattu sword symbolising agility, precision and lethal grace. The crest, unveiled last week, celebrates Mahe's cultural and martial legacy, depicting the Urumi rising from the sea.

Meanwhile, the Indian Navy has begun preparations for Navy Day 2025, to be celebrated on December 3. A major operational demonstration is planned at Shangumugham beach in Thiruvananthapuram, showcasing precision, professionalism and the Navy's expanding maritime strength. The celebration, originally set for December 4, has been advanced by a day.

India Boosts Academia-Industry Links via i-PhD Programme

NEW DELHI

Union Minister Jitendra Singh says India is advancing academia–industry integration to equip young researchers for future-ready innovation ecosystems

India is taking decisive steps toward building stronger academia–industry linkages that enable young scholars to imagine, innovate and engage meaningfully with emerging industrial sectors, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh said on Sunday. Speaking at the ninth Convocation of the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR), the Minister said that the institution's pioneering "i-PhD" programme, introduced in 2023, represents a transformative shift in India's research training ecosystem.

Explaining the vision behind the initiative, Singh said the 'i' in i-PhD stands not only for 'industry', but also for 'imagination' and 'innovation'. Under the programme, every scholar is mandated to develop a technology relevant to translational research or startups, ensuring that academic research responds directly to industrial and societal needs.

This marks a significant step in enhancing India's innovation capacity and making research more application-driven, he added.

The Minister described AcSIR as a "wholesome whole", representing a convergence of science, education, governance and national aspiration. He said the institution embodies the spirit of a rapidly progressing India committed to becoming a 'Viksit Bharat'. Its rise, he noted, reflects the government's growing prioritisation of science and innovation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, where scientific thinking drives economic growth, strategic technology missions and global competitiveness.

Highlighting AcSIR's expanding footprint, Singh said the institution now hosts nearly 7,000 students mentored by more than 3,100 frontline scientists across 79 campuses, making it one of India's most diverse and multidisciplinary research ecosystems. He said AcSIR has effectively evolved into a "shared national university", drawing scholars and faculty from every discipline and region of the country.

The Minister emphasised that AcSIR is increasingly becoming a vibrant platform for research dialogue, knowledge exchange and collaborative discovery — a crucial pillar in India's march toward innovation-led development.

Cyber Cell busts key links in ₹ 2.35 cr online investment scam

NEW DELHI

In a significant strike against cyber-enabled financial crime, the Cyber Cell of the Crime Branch, Delhi Police, has arrested two alleged facilitators of a sprawling Rs 2.35 crore online investment scam that operated under the name "Stock Market", the Delhi Police said on Sunday. The arrested accused have been identified as Sajjad Ahmad (35) and Uttam Mandal (40). The arrests follow months of technical tracking, financial analysis and cross-state coordination in a case registered under FIR No. 50/2025 at Special Cell, Delhi.

Outgoing CJI B.R. Gavai highlights social media's impact on judiciary and plans social work after completing distinguished judicial tenure

CJI B.R. Gavai Reflects on Social Media Challenges, Vows Social Service

NEW DELHI

On the eve of passing the baton to his successor, Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai on Sunday reflected on the growing challenges posed by social media, noting that its influence has affected the judiciary as much as other arms of the state. Interacting with reporters before demitting office, CJI Gavai, 64, said, "Social media has become a problem these days, attributing statements to people that they never made, affecting not only the judiciary but all branches of government."

Justice Gavai, the first Buddhist to serve as the head of the Indian judiciary, made it clear he would not take up any official post after retirement. Instead, he hinted at dedicating his time to social work. He said he would take 10 days of rest before deciding his next steps and expressed his intention to contribute in tribal regions, adding that social work is "in our blood."

During his long and respected judicial career, CJI Gavai delivered several landmark rulings. His key judgments include clarifications on the constitutional role of Governors and the President regarding pending legislation and defining the limits of executive delay. He also issued significant decisions such as staying contentious provisions of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, criticising "bulldozer justice," and upholding demonetisation. Notably, he strongly advocated applying the "creamy layer" principle to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for affirmative action benefits.

Addressing recent controversy, he clarified that his decision on the President's reference did not overturn an earlier two-judge ruling but provided guidance for future cases.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier praised CJI Gavai for displaying exemplary calm during an object-throwing incident in the Supreme Court in October, calling the attack "utterly condemnable" and appreciating the CJI's composure.

Justice Gavai, son of former Bihar Governor R.S. Gavai, had expressed pride at becoming the country's first Buddhist Chief Justice. Emphasising inclusivity, he said, "I believe in all religions — I go to temples, dargahs, Jain temples, gurdwaras everywhere."

Constitution (131st Amendment) direct 'assault' on Punjab's rights: AAP

CHANDIGARH

Punjab Finance Minister and senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Harpal Singh Cheema on Sunday criticised the Union government for the alleged attempt to "snatch the rights of Punjab".

However, the Centre clarified it has no plan to bring the draft law in the upcoming winter session of the Parliament. Cheema told the media that only Punjab "possesses the rightful claim to Chandigarh, a city built by displacing 24 villages of the state".

He warned that any move to "snatch" Chandigarh would be met with a two-pronged resistance - a legal struggle by the state government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, and a resolute struggle by the Aam Aadmi Party alongside the three crore people of Punjab, extending from the road to the Parliament.

The Finance Minister lambasted the BJP for "embodying a spirit of Hitler" and being determined to "dismantle" the country's democratic and federal structure.

He said that "Conspiracy is being hatched even as the Punjab government and the people of the country celebrate the 350th anniversary of the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur for religious freedom and national unity."

He cited a pattern of "anti-Punjab actions", starting with the three black farm laws intended to destroy the agricultural economy, followed by attempts to "compromise" Punjab's interests through the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), the "unpleasant bid" to seize senate of Panjab University in Chandigarh which could directly affected the working of about 200 colleges, and now the "deceitful maneuver" to snatch Chandigarh. Condemning the Central government for "treading the path of the Mughals to suppress Punjab's interests", Finance Minister Cheema specifically highlighted the plan to introduce the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill.

"This proposed bill aims to bring Chandigarh under the purview of Article 240 of the Constitution, which would empower the President to make regulations for the Union Territory and legislate directly, an act the Finance Minister termed a direct assault on Punjab's rights".

Tamil scholar Erode Tamilanban laid to rest with full state honours

CHENNAI

Erode Tamilanban, one of Tamil literature's most distinguished contemporary voices and a recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award, was cremated with full state honours in Chennai on Sunday.

The 92-year-old poet, who passed away on Saturday, was accorded a ceremonial farewell at the Arumbakkam electric crematorium, where an armed police contingent fired 30 rounds in three volleys as directed by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.

Tamilanban had been undergoing treatment for severe respiratory complications at a private hospital in the city. Despite intensive medical care, he breathed his last on Saturday afternoon. His mortal remains were later brought to his residence in Koyambedu, where they were kept for public homage.

Throughout the day and well into the night, a stream of dignitaries, political leaders, artistes, writers, and admirers visited to pay their respects to the beloved poet. Chief Minister Stalin, who visited the residence on Saturday, conveyed his condolences to the grieving family.

In his message, he described Tamilanban as "an exceptional literary force whose life elevated Tamil language, culture, and scholarship", noting that his contributions spanned an extraordinary range of genres and readerships.

Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin also paid tribute on Sunday ahead of the state funeral. Born in 1933 in Chennimalai in Erode district, Tamilanban carved a niche as a prolific and versatile literary figure. His works traversed classical Tamil poetry, modern free verse, haiku, short stories, novels, plays, essays, and children's literature.

He earned the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2004 for his seminal work 'Vanakkam Valluva', which reinterpreted the moral philosophy of Tiruvalluvar for modern readers.

Amit Shah lauds NCB, Delhi Police for ₹ 262 crore drug seizure

NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday reiterated the government's resolve to fight the drug menace and congratulated the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and the Delhi Police for a mega Rs 262 crore seizure of contraband. "Our government is shattering drug cartels at an unprecedented pace. Fiercely pursuing the top-to-bottom and bottom-to-top approach to the investigation of drugs, a breakthrough was achieved by seizing 328 kg of methamphetamine worth Rs 262 crore in New Delhi and arresting two," said HM Shah in a post on X.

"The operation was a brilliant example of seamless multi-agency coordination to achieve Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji's vision for a drug-free India. Congratulations to the joint team of NCB and Delhi Police," he said.

Earlier, the NCB said in a statement that its Bhubaneswar Zonal Unit secured the conviction of three accused involved in drug trafficking from the court of the 3rd Additional District and Sessions Judge, Bhubaneswar.

The case dates back to August 13, 2021, when officers of the NCB apprehended three accused persons in possession of 20 kgs of opium.

> **The operation was a brilliant example of seamless multi-agency coordination.**
> —Amit Shah, Home Minister

Subsequent investigation revealed the accused's involvement in an inter-state smuggling racket, wherein opium was concealed in the specially made cavity in the driver's cabin of a truck.

All three accused were charge-sheeted in February 2022. The truck used for the transportation of illegal opium was also seized.

BJP CAMPAIGN DRIVE

CM Rekha Gupta Ramps up BJP Bypoll Campaign

NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday spearheaded the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) campaign efforts for the upcoming by-elections in 12 Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) wards scheduled for November 30, a party leader said. Seizing the final Sunday before polling day, BJP candidates across all 12 wards, accompanied by local workers and office bearers, launched an early morning door-to-door outreach at 7.30 a.m., urging residents to support the party in next Sunday's elections.

Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva said the public response during the pre-election outreach was overwhelmingly positive. He added that the party's internal assessment indicates the BJP is poised to win 11 of the 12 wards, attributing the projected success to strong organisational capacity, which enables the party to identify supporters and ensure voter turnout.

The highlight of Sunday's campaign was Chief Minister Gupta's participation in seven public meetings and rallies across the city. Alongside MPs Praveen Khandelwal and Kamaljeet Sehrawat, she addressed the 'Panna Pramukh' conventions in Ashok Vihar and Dwarka B wards, urging workers to double-check voter lists and ensure that supporters cast their ballots before lunchtime on voting day.

Around 1.30 p.m., the Chief Minister visited Greater Kailash Ward, interacting with residents and Resident Welfare Association (RWA) representatives on issues related to development and maintenance. MP Bansuri Swaraj, MLA Shikha Roy, and District President Ravindra Chaudhary also joined the interaction.

In the afternoon, Gupta, accompanied by MP Ramveer Singh Bidhuri, addressed a public meeting in Sangam Vihar A Ward, encouraging residents to support the "Triple Engine Government" for the region's overall development. She later engaged with distinguished community members at a convention in Sainik Vihar.

Concluding her day-long campaign, the Chief Minister addressed a gathering at F Block Road in Vinod Nagar Ward. She expressed confidence that residents would reject the candidature of a former councillor allegedly involved in corruption, stating that Vinod Nagar voters would deliver a "befitting reply" to the challenge posed by Arvind Kejriwal.

QUICK READ

Weapon cache seized in Afghanistan's Uruzgan province

Kabul

A significant weapons cache was uncovered in Afghanistan's Uruzgan province, with three individuals arrested in connection to the discovery, local authorities confirmed on Sunday. According to Bilal Uruzgani, the spokesperson for the provincial police, the weapons were found hidden in a residential house. The cache included a variety of ammunition, hand grenades, rocket shells, bullets, and other munitions. Authorities have initiated further investigations to identify other individuals who may be connected to the illicit arms stash.

Former Brazilian President Bolsonaro taken into preventive custody

Brasilia

Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro was taken into preventive custody by police in Brasilia under an order issued by the Federal Supreme Court. According to initial information provided by the Federal Police, the arrest is not the result of a sentence, but a precautionary measure requested by investigators. Bolsonaro was detained at around 6:00 a.m. local time (0900 GMT) and immediately taken to the Federal Police headquarters in the capital. The detention comes in the final phase of an investigation into an alleged coup plot in the country. Bolsonaro, who was in power from 2019 to 2022.

Number of Koreans aboard 1945 sunken Japanese ship

Seoul

The number of Koreans aboard a Japanese ship that sank in 1945, killing up to over 3,000 people, will likely be revealed by the year-end following an analysis of passenger lists, the interior ministry said on Sunday. The government has commissioned the Foundation for Victims of Forced Mobilisation by Imperial Japan to carry out an in-depth analysis of 75 passenger lists and related items received from the Japanese foreign ministry between September last year and March this year. The analysis is expected to be completed by mid-December after the interior ministry sorts through passengers listed more than once and corrects.

South Korea to Host 2028 G20 Summit, President Lee Vows Strong Leadership in Global Cooperation

President Lee Jae Myung pledges responsible leadership as South Korea prepares to host the G20 summit in 2028

JOHANNESBURG

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Sunday announced that the country will host the Group of 20 (G20) summit in 2028, declaring that Seoul will approach its presidency with a profound sense of responsibility to strengthen the forum's role in global economic cooperation. His commitment came during the third session of the ongoing G20 Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, where South Korea was formally confirmed as the host nation following the United States in 2026 and Britain in 2027.

Lee emphasised that hosting the G20 summit would be another significant multilateral milestone achieved during his five-year tenure, which concludes in 2030. This follows South Korea's chairmanship of the UN Security Council and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit earlier this year. He asserted that South Korea would work to ensure that the G20 continues to function as the leading platform for addressing pressing global economic challenges.

Speaking during a session themed A Fair and Just Future for All, Lee highlighted the importance of creating a resilient and mutually beneficial supply chain for critical minerals. With ongoing tensions between the United States and China over rare earth elements causing global uncertainty, he stressed the urgency of sharing benefits between mineral-rich countries and import-dependent nations. He welcomed the G20's adoption of the Critical Minerals Framework and pointed to Seoul's leadership in the Minerals Security Partnership and the newly launched Korea-Africa Critical Minerals Cooperation Initiative.

On the subject of artificial intelligence (AI), Lee called for equitable access to AI technologies and global frameworks that ensure fairness. He noted that South Korea, as this year's APEC chair, successfully led efforts to introduce a new AI initiative aimed at supporting inclusive technological development. He also highlighted programs designed to enhance digital skills among women and youth in Africa, reaffirming Seoul's commitment to global capacity building.

Goyal Meets Israeli PM, Announces Progress on India–Israel Trade Ties

JERUSALEM

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Sunday met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the end of his three-day official visit, marking a significant step forward in India–Israel economic and strategic cooperation. In a post on X, Goyal said he was honoured to call on the Israeli leader and conveyed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's warm wishes during their meeting.

Goyal briefed Netanyahu on several key outcomes of his visit, including discussions with Israel's Economy Minister Nir Barkat, and the successful conclusion of the India–Israel Business Forum and CEOs Forum. More than 60 Indian business leaders participated in these engagements, reflecting strong private-sector interest in deepening bilateral collaboration.

A major highlight of the visit was the signing of the Terms of Reference to formally launch Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations. Goyal noted that the proposed FTA, which is planned to be implemented in two phases, is expected to substantially boost trade, investment and technology cooperation between the two countries. He added that such an agreement would provide new momentum to innovation, research and development, benefiting both economies.

Piyush Goyal met Israeli PM Netanyahu, conveying PM Modi's greetings and highlighting key breakthroughs in bilateral trade discussions.

The Minister also emphasised the potential of combining Israel's advanced technological capabilities with India's vast talent and scale. He discussed with Netanyahu ways to further expand cooperation in sectors such as agriculture, water management, defence, science and technology, and innovation. According to Goyal, the Israeli Prime Minister provided valuable guidance on shaping the next phase of bilateral engagement. Reflecting on his visit, Goyal said this was the first trip by an Indian Commerce Minister to Israel in two decades and described it as very successful. He expressed confidence that the renewed push toward an FTA and expanding innovation partnerships will significantly elevate India–Israel relations in the coming years.

UN climate chief Simon Stiell says COP30 proved global climate cooperation remains strong despite geopolitical tensions and political challenges

Global Climate Cooperation 'Alive and Kicking': UN Climate Chief Simon Stiell

BELEM

UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell has said that global climate cooperation continues to remain active, united and resilient despite a politically turbulent year.

In a statement released following the conclusion of the 30th UN Climate Change Conference (COP30), Stiell acknowledged the difficult international climate in which the conference was held but emphasised that governments had demonstrated their determination to act collectively.

We knew this COP would take place in stormy political waters. Denial, division and geopolitics have dealt international cooperation heavy blows this year, Stiell said.

Even so, COP30 showed that climate cooperation is alive and kicking, keeping humanity in the fight for a livable planet, with the firm determination to keep 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach.

He underlined that while the world is not yet winning the climate battle, we are undeniably still in it, and we are fighting back, citing the united stance of 194 participating countries.

Stiell highlighted that the conference sent a clear message that the global shift toward low-emissions development and climate resilience is irreversible.

He pointed to key achievements at COP30, including agreements on ensuring a just transition, commitments to triple adaptation finance, and enhanced support for nations most vulnerable to climate disasters.

According to Stiell, these measures will help guarantee that all nations can benefit from a fast-growing clean economy.

He also praised progress under the COP30 Action Agenda, which included major pledges to expand clean energy grids, restore forests and oceans, and boost resilience for hundreds of millions worldwide.

He said these outcomes represent real-world progress on the things billions of people care about most.

As COP30 concluded in Belem, Brazil, with the approval of its final document — Global Mutirao: Uniting humanity in a global mobilisation against climate change — Stiell urged countries to accelerate the implementation of their national climate plans and maintain momentum.

INS Savitri arrives in Seychelles to boost maritime cooperation

PORT VICTORIA

Indian Naval Ship (INS) Savitri, an Offshore Patrol Vessel deployed in the Indian Ocean Region, reached Port Victoria in Seychelles as part of its ongoing operational mission, the Indian Navy said on Sunday.

The vessel received a warm reception from the Seychelles Coast Guard, reflecting the enduring mutual respect and strong bilateral ties between the two countries.

According to the Navy, the ship handed over essential spares to the Seychelles Coast Guard, reaffirming India's unwavering commitment in enhancing the operational readiness and capabilities of its maritime partners, to ensure stability and security in the shared maritime domain.

During its port stay, INS Savitri conducted multiple harbour engagements, including professional exchanges, subject matter expert interactions and sharing of best practices with Seychelles Coast Guard personnel.

The ship was also opened to visitors, offering a glimpse into its operational capabilities and the maritime heritage of the Indian Navy.

INS Savitri, with Seychelles Coast Guard personnel, will now undertake joint surveillance of the Exclusive Economic Zone, an exercise aimed at strengthening maritime security and enhancing situational awareness across the island nation's maritime areas.

The deployment, the Navy said, aligns with India's vision of 'Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions' (MAHASAGAR) and reinforces India's role as a Preferred Security Partner and First Responder in the Indian Ocean Region.

Earlier on November 10, INS Savitri arrived at Port Beira, Mozambique, and received a warm and ceremonial welcome from personnel of the Mozambique Navy, reflecting the deep historical ties and the strong maritime cooperation between the two nations.

Later, INS Savitri also engaged in a joint training session with personnel from the Mozambique Navy at Port Beira in the Southern African country, boosting interoperability for future combined operations.

Australia pledges swift support after Cyclone Fina hits Darwin

CANBERRA

The Australian government said on Sunday that it is ready to support the Northern Territory (NT) after Tropical Cyclone Fina hit the city of Darwin. Kristy McBain, Australia's minister for emergency management, told on Sunday that the federal government was working with the NT government to provide support, including any requests for funding from the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) on Sunday morning downgraded its warning for Darwin, the Tiwi Islands and surrounding areas as the cyclone moved southwest over the southern Timor Sea.

The cyclone caused damage to buildings and power outages across the city, but as of Sunday morning, there had been no reported injuries, local media said.

The bureau said that Fina is forecast to remain a severe tropical cyclone on Sunday as it moves southwest through the southern Timor Sea. It will start weakening on Monday as it nears the northern coast of Western Australia.

The BOM said on Friday that the cyclone, currently a category 1 cyclone, is moving slowly south-southwest and is expected to strengthen to a category 2 system whilst tracking southwest during the day.

It said the storm is approaching the Cobourg Peninsula, the northernmost point of the mainland NT, about 200 km northeast of Darwin, and the Tiwi Islands and will move over the area on Friday night, before continuing southwest through the Van Diemen Gulf.

Fina is forecast to further intensify to a severe tropical cyclone on Sunday afternoon in the southern Timor Sea. There continues to remain a chance that it could reach category 3 intensity earlier, during late Friday, as it moves into the Van Diemen Gulf, the bureau added.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

	1		3		4		6	
7		4		5		1		3
	8		1		9	5		2
8		6	4		2	3		5
5		2		8		4	1	
	4			6	5	8		9
4		9	2		1	6		7
	6	8	5		7	9		
1				9	8		5	4

5	6	4	3	2	9	8	7	4
1	2	8	5	4	7	6	9	3
9	7	3	6	1	8	5	2	4
6	1	7	4	5	2	9	3	8
4	5	9	8	7	3	2	1	6
8	3	2	9	6	1	4	5	7
3	9	5	7	8	4	1	6	2
2	8	6	1	3	5	7	4	9
7	4	1	2	9	6	3	8	5

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

LAWYERS DEFY AMENDMENT

Lawyers Defy HC as Protests Intensify over 27th Amendment

ISLAMABAD

Protests against Pakistan's 27th Constitutional Amendment escalated on Sunday as large groups of lawyers in Karachi entered the premises of the Sindh High Court (SHC), openly defying directives issued by the court's registrar. According to local media reports, including Pakistan's leading daily Dawn, the SHC had prohibited the use of its premises for demonstrations, but protesting lawyers proceeded to hold a rally in an open space inside the court complex. Addressing the gathering, senior lawyers condemned the amendment's implementation and vowed to continue their agitation for judicial independence and the rule of law. They argued that the amendment, particularly the establishment of the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC), weakened the authority of the Supreme Court and disrupted Pakistan's constitutional framework. Many carried placards and banners voicing their demands while chanting slogans against the government and the new provisions. The situation turned tense when lawyers scuffled with police officers stationed at the SHC's main entrance. Despite the confrontation, police eventually allowed the lawyers to continue their demonstration inside the premises. Additional legal professionals later joined the protest outside the court, amplifying the day's turnout. In a related development, the Human Rights Council (HRC) of Pakistan strongly condemned what it described as the illegal arrest and five-hour detention of rights activist Farwa Askar and journalist Alifia Sohail. The organization said the two were detained on Friday outside the Karachi Press Club during a peaceful protest against the same constitutional amendment. It labelled the incident a serious breach of freedom of expression and human rights protections.

QUICK READ

Most India GCCs boost Agentic AI, innovation teams

New Delhi

India-based global capability centres (GCCs) have moved from AI experimentation to enterprise-scale adoption, with 58 per cent of centres currently investing in Agentic AI and another 29 per cent planning to scale over the next year, a report said on Sunday. About 83 per cent of GCCs are already investing in GenAI, where pilots have increased from 37 per cent last year to 43 per cent as of 2025. According to the EY India's report, GCCs are applying GenAI where it matters most -- enhancing customer service (65 per cent), followed by finance (53 per cent), operations (49 per cent), IT and cybersecurity (45 per cent).

New Labour Code on Wages Aims to Safeguard Workers

New Delhi

The new Code on Wages that has now come into effect, promotes fairness, equity, and inclusivity in India's labour market. By ensuring uniform wage standards and social security, it safeguards both workers' rights and employers' interests. Overall, it strengthens economic justice, encourages formalisation, and enhances the dignity of labour, according to an official statement issued on Sunday. Section 5 of the Code on Wages, 2019 establishes a statutory right to minimum wages for all employees, extending its coverage to every sector, both organised and unorganised. Earlier, the minimum wages applied only to scheduled employment, covering roughly 30 per cent of the workforce.

India strengthens textile, sericulture ties with Georgia

Tbilis

To strengthen cooperation in sericulture research, textiles, and apparel trade, a high-level delegation from the Ministry of Textiles concluded a successful multi-sectoral engagement in Georgia from November 17 to 21, the ministry said in an official statement on Sunday. The delegation, which was led by P. Sivakumar, Member Secretary, Central Silk Board (CSB) and Secretary General, International Sericultural Commission (ISC), participated in the 11th BACSA International Conference – CULTUSERI 2025, where Sivakumar delivered the Opening Address representing ISC, highlighting India's leadership in traditional silk knowledge and its relevance to creative and cultural industries.

PM Modi Proposes IBSA Fund for Climate-Resilient Agriculture

Prime Minister Modi urged deeper IBSA cooperation, proposing new initiatives on agriculture, technology, governance reforms and human-centric development.

JOHANNESBURG

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday proposed the creation of an IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa) Fund for Climate Resilient Agriculture, aimed at bolstering South–South cooperation and supporting sustainable farming practices. Speaking at the IBSA leaders' meeting, hosted by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and attended by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Modi commended the IBSA Fund's existing work across 40 countries in sectors such as education, health, women's empowerment and solar energy.

Calling the meeting timely, Modi noted its alignment with the first G20 Summit held on African soil and the completion of four consecutive G20 presidencies by Global South nations — three of which were led by IBSA members. This sequence, he said, had ushered in important initiatives centred on human-centric development, multilateral reforms and sustainable growth.

The Prime Minister underlined that IBSA is not merely a grouping of three nations but a powerful platform connecting three continents, three robust democracies and three major economies. He stated that the member countries can complement one another's development journeys and serve as a global example of sustainable, inclusive progress.

Modi highlighted several potential areas of collaboration, including millets promotion, natural farming, disaster resilience, green energy, traditional medicine and health security. Stressing the transformative power of technology, he said IBSA could play a key role in shaping safe, reliable and human-centric global AI norms. He invited leaders to the AI Impact Summit to be held in India next year.

Calling for urgent reform of global governance institutions, especially the UN Security Council, Modi argued that existing structures no longer reflect contemporary geopolitical and developmental realities. As part of enhancing cooperation, he proposed establishing an IBSA Digital Innovation Alliance to facilitate the sharing of Digital Public Infrastructure such as UPI, health platforms like CoWIN.

Industrial Relations Code 2020 Expands Worker Protections, Simplifies Labour Laws

The Industrial Relations Code 2020 strengthens collective bargaining and streamlines labour regulations to promote harmony, flexibility, and workforce security nationwide.

NEW DELHI

The Industrial Relations Code, 2020 significantly enhances India's labour framework by expanding worker protections, simplifying compliance, and strengthening mechanisms for dispute resolution and collective bargaining, an official statement said on Sunday. Designed to bring greater clarity and uniformity to labour regulations, the Code seeks to create a balanced environment that supports both workforce security and business efficiency.

A key reform introduced under the Code is the expansion of the definition of worker to include sales promotion employees, working journalists, and supervisory staff earning up to ₹18,000 per month. This move ensures that a larger segment of India's workforce gains access to statutory labour rights and social security benefits. The National Commission on Labour had long recommended the rationalisation and simplification of existing labour laws, and the consolidation of three major legislations — the Industrial Disputes Act (1947), the Trade Unions Act (1926), and the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act (1946) — into a single, streamlined code marks a major step forward.

According to the statement, the Industrial Relations Code aims to promote industrial peace by balancing the need for strong worker safeguards with the operational flexibility required by businesses. It simplifies compliance by introducing uniform definitions, reducing ambiguity across the board, and improving the ease of doing business.

The Code also undertakes a major overhaul of regulatory requirements. It reduces the number of rules from 105 to 51, forms from 37 to 18, and completely eliminates the requirement of maintaining physical registers. These reductions are expected to significantly lower compliance burdens and encourage employment generation. Workers also stand to gain from expanded access to benefits such as healthcare and sick leave.

Additionally, the Code broadens the definition of industry to include any systematic activity carried out through cooperation between employers and workers, regardless of capital investment or profit motive. This expansion brings a wide range of non-profit and low-capital organisations under the purview of labour protections, ensuring more inclusive coverage.

The 44th India International Trade Fair showcases India's cultural vibrancy while empowering small traders and first-time entrepreneurs nationwide.

IITF 2025 Empowers Small Traders and Rural Entrepreneurs

NEW DELHI

The Bharat Mandapam complex has transformed into a dynamic showcase of India's cultural and economic diversity as the 44th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2025 continues to attract thousands of visitors. With the theme Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat and participation from more than 3,500 exhibitors, this year's fair goes far beyond conventional trade activity. It has emerged as a vital economic platform for artisans, farmer-entrepreneurs, start-ups and small businesses eager to tap into national markets.

Inaugurated on November 14, the fourteen-day event offers first-generation entrepreneurs and rural craftspersons an opportunity to showcase products, assess market demand, connect with bulk buyers, and understand consumer choices. As India advances towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, IITF reflects a confident and self-reliant nation supporting grassroots enterprise.

Among the many inspiring stories on display is that of 45-year-old Sridhi Kumari at the Bihar pavilion. A first-time exhibitor, she presents Bhagalpuri silk sarees and intricate zari craftsmanship created by artisans from Bihar and West Bengal. Supported by women-entrepreneurship schemes, she says IITF is helping her decode market trends and widen her customer base after gaining recognition at the GI Mahotsav earlier this year.

From Maharashtra's Hingoli district, farmer-turned-entrepreneur Prahlad Ramrao Borgad and his wife Kaveri exhibit organic pulses, spices and pickles under their brand Surya Farmers. Backed by SHGs and the state MSME department, Borgad emphasises that platforms like IITF

equip farmers with crucial skills in branding, presentation and consumer engagement—areas often inaccessible in rural markets. He estimates that his earnings at IITF equal four to five months of regular income, with additional orders expected even after the fair concludes.

Jharkhand, the partner state for IITF 2025, showcases its rich tribal heritage. Artisan Jhabar Mal, a regular participant, presents traditional lacquer bangles that continue to draw enthusiastic visitors.

SEBI board to consider comprehensive review of mutual funds

NEW DELHI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is preparing for a major regulatory overhaul as it plans to undertake a comprehensive review of its mutual fund and stock broker frameworks at its upcoming board meeting next month, a senior official.

According to the official, the objective of the proposed review is to make the existing regulations more relevant, efficient and aligned with the expanding scale and complexity of India's capital markets. With growing retail participation, rising digital transactions and increasing product diversification across the financial ecosystem, SEBI aims to ensure that regulatory structures remain robust and adaptable to evolving market realities.

The mutual fund sector, which has witnessed record inflows and rapid growth in systematic investment plans (SIPs), is expected to be one of the key focus areas. The regulator is likely to assess compliance standards, transparency requirements, risk-management mechanisms and the distribution ecosystem to reinforce investor protection and strengthen governance practices.

Similarly, the review of stock broker regulations is expected to cover issues related to investor onboarding, grievance redressal systems, margin rules, cybersecurity protocols and the responsibilities of market intermediaries. SEBI is also examining whether certain legacy provisions require simplification or modernisation to reduce compliance burdens without compromising market integrity.

The official added that the board meeting would set the direction for regulatory reforms planned in 2026, as SEBI works toward enhancing trust, efficiency and innovation in the securities market.

FinMin reviews revival of mega PSU insurance merger, privatisation

MUMBAI

The Finance Ministry is re-evaluating an earlier proposal to merge three public sector general insurance companies — Oriental Insurance, National Insurance, and United India Insurance — into a single entity, sources said. The move, aimed at improving operational efficiency and scale, is under preliminary assessment following a turnaround in the firms' financial performance. Between 2019-20 and 2021-22, the government infused ₹17,450 crore into the three insurers to stabilise their finances. The initial plan to merge them was announced in the 2018-19 Budget by then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley but was shelved in July 2020 in favour of a ₹12,450 crore capital infusion.

With their financial position showing signs of recovery, the merger is back under consideration. In parallel, the proposal to privatise a general insurance company, as part of the government's broader divestment agenda, is also being reviewed. While options are being discussed, no decision has been finalised, sources added.

The General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Act, passed in August 2021, paved the way for privatisation by removing the requirement for the Centre to hold at least 51% in such entities. It also aims to allow greater private participation and deepen insurance penetration. Additionally, the government is expected to introduce a bill in the upcoming Winter Session of Parliament to raise the FDI cap in the insurance sector from 74% to 100%. The session begins December 1 and will run for 15 working days.

Employers Must Lead Skill Development, Says Sridhar Vembu

HYDERABAD

Zoho's chief scientist Sridhar Vembu on Sunday argued that employers must take on a far bigger role in building skills as college degrees drift further away from job-market needs. Responding to a report on China's looming employment crunch, Vembu wrote on X, I believe the solution is for employers to play a far more active role in skill development. College education decoupled from work is expensive, wastes time and resources and does not suit the vast majority of students. Vembu's post came after the South China Morning Post reported that China is bracing for 12.7 million graduates entering a tight job market in 2026. The report described a deepening structural imbalance: China's labour market suffers from a structural talent shortage: many young people struggle to find jobs that meet their expectations, while factories often find it difficult to recruit qualified technicians.

Economist Liu Yuanchun added that the number of university graduates would continue rising and could exceed 16 million by 2038, further widening the gap.

LoginRadius CEO Rakesh Soni said the rapid shift driven by automation had outpaced traditional training models. Employers stepping up on skill building is important, especially as AI reshapes the work. But it feels like knowledge work is automating faster than we can train, and maybe we're chasing the wrong finish line, especially looking at 2038, he wrote. He questioned whether economies should begin redesigning work itself. If real employment pressure hits, why not pivot to 4-day weeks, then 6-hour days, and so on, until AI handles the grind and we all get UBI to chase what truly sparks joy? What's your take on the endgame here? Not just China, a debate over a talent gap is also growing in India.

INDIA MARKET SURGE

Seven of India's Top Companies add ₹1.28 Lakh Crore

MUMBAI

The combined market valuation of seven of India's top-10 most valued companies surged by more than ₹1.28 lakh crore last week, supported by a broadly positive trend in domestic equities. Investor sentiment remained upbeat, with the BSE Sensex advancing 669.14 points, or 0.79 per cent, and the Nifty50 rising 0.61 per cent during the week.

Most heavyweight stocks posted healthy increases in market capitalisation, reflecting sustained investor confidence across key sectors such as energy, banking, information technology and FMCG. Reliance Industries and Bharti Airtel were among the standout performers, with Airtel recording a strong jump of ₹36,579.01 crore, taking its valuation to ₹12,33,279.85 crore.

IT majors also contributed significantly to the overall gains. Infosys added ₹17,490.03 crore, lifting its market capitalisation to ₹6,41,688.83 crore, while Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) registered an increase of ₹16,299.49 crore, pushing its valuation to ₹11,39,715.66 crore.

Banking giants HDFC Bank and State Bank of India also witnessed notable increases. HDFC Bank rose by

₹14,608.22 crore to reach ₹15,35,132.56 crore, reaffirming its position as the most valued bank. State Bank of India gained ₹4,846.08 crore, taking its valuation to ₹8,97,769.87 crore. In the FMCG sector, Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) saw its market capitalisation rise by ₹1,785.69 crore to ₹5,71,972.75 crore.

However, the upbeat market mood did not extend to all frontline companies. Bajaj Finance emerged as the biggest loser of the week, as its valuation slipped by ₹8,244.79 crore to ₹6,25,328.59 crore. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) lost ₹4,522.38 crore, falling to ₹5,70,578.04 crore, while ICICI Bank recorded a smaller decline of ₹1,248.08 crore, bringing its market capitalisation to ₹9,79,126.35 crore.

Nowhere else to go, so be earth's hero

The environmental challenges arising from climate change today threaten not just ecosystems but the very existence of human civilization

Lalit Gargg
Columnist

Climate change is no longer a distant scientific hypothesis; it has become an immediate, lived reality. Its severity is starkly revealed in the Climate India 2025 report by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and Down To Earth.

From January to September 2025, India faced some form of extreme weather—floods, droughts, heavy rainfall, storms, cold waves, or deadly heat—on 99% of the days. In the same period, 4,064 lives were lost, 9.47 million hectares of crops destroyed, 58,982 livestock perished, and 99,533 houses collapsed. Agriculture has suffered the deepest wounds, as rising temperatures and erratic rainfall directly disrupt crops, soil moisture, and farming cycles. Rural economies are reeling under unprecedented stress.

In Himachal Pradesh alone, extreme weather struck on 257 days, while Madhya Pradesh recorded 532 deaths and Maharashtra saw 8.4 million hectares of crops damaged. Clearly, this is not merely an environmental concern—it is a grave crisis impacting human life, health, economic stability, and national prosperity.

At least 18 states and Union Territories recorded their highest number of extreme-weather days since 2022. From February to September 2025, for eight consecutive months, 30 or more states witnessed uninterrupted extreme weather events. What India is facing today mirrors the global situation. The years 2023, 2024, and 2025 have been among the hottest ever recorded.

An impending disaster

Europe's unending heatwaves, famine in Africa's Sahel region, wildfires in the Amazon and Australia, violent cyclones across the Pacific and Atlantic, and rapidly melting glaciers—all point to a planet hurtling toward a dangerous tipping point. Disrupted weather cycles, rising sea levels, sudden temperature spikes, and unpredictable rainfall are not only intensifying natural disasters but also rendering human life increasingly unsafe.

Who's responsible?

The core cause behind this planetary disturbance is human behaviour: unchecked industrialization, dependence on fossil fuels, deforestation, pollution, unplanned cities, and reckless consumption. These actions have pushed greenhouse gas concentrations to perilous levels, overheating the Earth and destabilizing its climate system.

Health risks

The consequences now touch every sphere of life. Health risks are rising sharply; heatwaves are claiming more lives, pollution-induced diseases are increasing, and new viruses are emerging. Water resources are depleting as rivers and groundwater dry up. Food security is under threat as crop failures grow, pushing up prices of essential grains and vegetables. Economies are staggering under the weight of repeated natural disasters, millions are being displaced, and inequality is widening. If the world fails to limit global warming to 1.5°C, the next three decades could see erratic Himalayan rivers, sinking coastal cities, and widespread human distress.

Climate change and human health

Another alarming warning comes from The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change 2025. According to its findings, climate-related factors caused a 66% decline in agricultural productivity and a 20% loss in the construction sector last year. Excessive heat alone resulted in an estimated $194 billion loss in potential earnings. The report, prepared by 128 international experts from 71 academic institutions and UN agencies, offers the most comprehensive assessment yet of the links between climate change and human health.

It highlights that between 2020 and 2024; India recorded an average of 10,000 deaths annually linked to wildfire-generated PM2.5 pollution—a 28% increase compared to 2003–2012. These figures should shake our collective conscience. Yet, in spite of such alarming warnings, the global response remains inadequate. Developed nations continue to evade their historical responsibility.

In recent years, the irresponsible stance of leaders like US President Donald Trump—who repeatedly undermined global climate commitments—has further-weakened international efforts. Many rich countries are openly disregarding the Paris Agreement and its essential recommendations.

Need for global emission reductions

Sunita Narain, Director General of CSE, rightly observed that India must now focus not merely on counting disasters but on understanding the scale at which climate change is unfolding. She stressed the urgent need for global emission reductions, emphasizing that no amount of adaptation can match the magnitude of these rapidly multiplying disasters.

Citizen's participation

CSE Programme Director Kiran Pandey, warned that rising temperatures during the monsoon could trigger even more intense and unpredictable weather events.

Richard Mahapatra, Managing Editor of Down To Earth, cautioned that without decisive mitigation, today's disasters will soon become "the new normal." In such times, responsibility cannot be left to governments and international bodies alone. Every citizen must become a participant in environmental protection. We must reshape our lifestyles to align with nature. Simple, everyday actions—saving energy, using water responsibly, reducing plastic use, planting trees, segregating waste, and recycling—can create transformative results. Rainwater harvesting, solar power, composting, and minimizing unnecessary consumption strengthen environmental resilience. Choosing public transport, reducing vehicle use, walking, and cycling are powerful steps toward combating climate change.

No substitute for Earth

The climate crisis will not resolve itself—it demands determination, collective effort, and a commitment to sustainable living. We have only one Earth, and there is no substitute. The message of our times is clear: ignoring nature's warnings will make tomorrow far more perilous for humanity. But if each individual shoulders their share of responsibility, we can still alter the course of climate change and restore balance, peace, and stability to our planet.

Nature, the foundation of life

However, technological solutions alone are not enough. A deeper environmental consciousness must take root—respect for nature, restrained use of resources, and a commitment to safeguarding the Earth for future generations. If society embraces this mindset—that protecting nature is the foundation of life, prosperity, and peace—change will naturally follow. Education, awareness, and community participation are our strongest tools. Teaching children's environmental values at home and in school will secure the planet's future.

Conquer diabetes not just with medicine, but with a balanced life

The growing threat of diabetes across the world is deeply alarming—every third urban adult is battling this silent yet devastating disease. Diabetes not only weakens the body but also fuels several other health disorders. The main culprits behind its spread are irregular eating habits and a sedentary lifestyle.

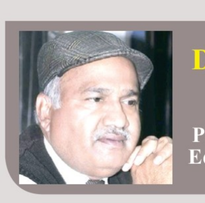
Today, diabetes has become a global health challenge. Changing lifestyles, erratic diets, stress, obesity, and physical inactivity are the key factors driving its growth. It is a silent invader that gradually weakens vital organs like the heart, kidneys, eyes, and nerves. Managing diabetes is not just a medical concern—it is an art of living. What is required most is balance: balanced diet, balanced sleep, balanced thoughts, and balanced conduct.This equilibrium is the true mantra of health. When life moves in harmony and discipline, diseases naturally retreat. Diabetes, therefore, is not merely a disease—it is a test of one's commitment to mindful living.

Effective diabetes management goes beyond medication and diet. It includes mental health support, stress management, lifestyle education, and community engagement. The focus must shift from merely treating the illness to nurturing the person. To combat diabetes, one must avoid myths and misconceptions. What is needed is not a big heart, but a wise heart. Moderate, mindful eating is perhaps the simplest and most effective medicine.

Diabetes is spreading rapidly in India and across the world—affecting both young and old alike. Once considered a disease of middle age, it is now gripping children and youth as well. In India alone, nearly 100 million people are living with diabetes, while 440 million are affected worldwide. India's prevalence rate has reached 11.5%, with 15.3% of the population at a pre-diabetic stage—meaning one in every ten Indians is at risk. Globally, it is estimated that by 2050, more than 850 million people will be living with diabetes.

To prevent and manage diabetes, regular physical activity is the key. Morning walks, light exercise, jogging, or cycling keep the body active and help stabilize blood glucose levels. Additionally, yoga and meditation have proven to be extremely beneficial in diabetes control. Yoga not only strengthens the body but calms the mind and reduces stress. Practices like pranayama, anulom-vilom, kapalbhati, and bhramari help regulate insulin secretion and bring mental stability. Stress and depression are hidden enemies of diabetes. When the mind is under pressure, cortisol and other stress hormones rise, increasing blood sugar levels. Thus, maintaining mental calmness and happiness is as crucial as physical health.

Freeing young minds from cyberholism



Dr Vijay Garg
Retired Principal & Educationist

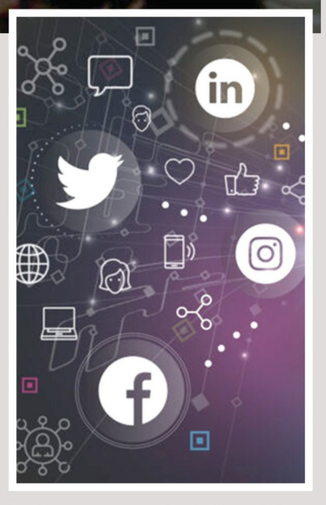
While the Corona crisis gave students an efficient option to study through online education, it also made them victims of digital addiction. Parents thought the children were busy with online learning, but a large number of them remained addicted to online games.

In recent times, children have become increasingly addicted to digital media and lifestyle changes. But they thought it was normal. If their parents prevent them from doing so, they will not tolerate it. Their behavior also seems to be aggressive.

Somewhere, there were cases of students committing suicide after their parents.

Govt actions

In Kerala alone, the tragic news of 41 children committing suicide in four years has put administration and parents to sleep. The Government of Kerala takes new initiatives to free children from digital addiction. Six D-addiction Centres have been started in Palakkad, which provide counselling for children. The psychologists present here do an Internet addiction test for children who are addicted, to find out what their level is. On the basis of which remedial measures are advised. There are 10-15 sessions of one hour during this time. It's nice to see positive results after four or five sessions.



In fact, it's hard to tell digital addicts that they are. They don't even want to admit they are doing something unusual. This behavior is normal for them. But after counseling and a few sessions at the addiction center, they think something is wrong.

The 'aggressive' outcome

In fact, the social media network is grazing our society so fast that kids don't even think they are doing anything unusual, which causes teenagers to act aggressively when they stop it. In some cases, they begin to become depressed or even have suicidal thoughts. It is pleasing that over the last two years, twelve and a half hundred children have been freed from digital addiction. Children are feeling mentally healthy.

Need for joint remedial measures

In fact, today's need is for teachers and parents to try to balance learning and internet use. In fact, this crisis is not just one district of Kerala but the whole country, which the Central Government needs to make policy and open a de-addiction centre as soon as possible. Positive results can be achieved in this direction with the cooperation of Centre and States. Volunteer organisations can also play an important role in this work.

Sunny Hinduja remembers India's 'Black Tiger' spy

Actor Sunny Hinduja paid a heartfelt tribute on Sunday to legendary Indian spy Ravindra Kaushik, as his TV series Adrishya completed 11 years. Sunny had portrayed Kaushik in one of the show's most memorable episodes, and he marked the occasion by sharing an emotional video on Instagram.

In the video, Sunny recalled Kaushik's extraordinary journey from a talented theatre artist to one of India's most successful undercover spies. Recruited by RAW at just 23, Kaushik spent two years erasing his identity, mastering Urdu and Islamic culture. In 1975, he crossed into Pakistan under his new identity, Nabi Ahmed Shakir. His brilliance earned him the title "The Black Tiger", personally given by the then Prime Minister.

Kaushik's achievements were remarkable. He completed an LLB degree in Pakistan, entered the Military Accounts Department, and eventually rose to the rank of Major. Until 1983, he sent crucial military intelligence back to India. His mission ended when a low-level contact was caught and revealed his identity. Arrested and tortured, Kaushik's death sentence was later changed to life imprisonment. He spent 16 years in Pakistani jails, secretly sending letters to his family, before dying in 2001.

Rooted stories hold global power, says Guneet Monga

Oscar-winning producer Guneet Monga Kapoor believes that Indian cinema must return to its roots to truly shine on the world stage. Speaking at the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa, she said that deeply grounded stories have the strongest emotional impact and are most likely to win global appreciation.

Guneet praised India's official Oscar entry "Homebound", calling it a beautiful film that has already travelled to Cannes and Toronto. She explained that the film had to be released quickly due to strict festival and Oscar submission timelines. "There's a lot of calculation behind release dates. I'm not here to comment on box office, but I believe people will love it when they watch it," she shared. She also highlighted the strong team behind the film, including director Neeraj Ghaywan and presenter Martin Scorsese.

The producer further noted that films like "Kantara" and "Manjummel Boys" are strong examples of rooted Indian storytelling that can excel internationally. "These films are super rooted and have the power to break barriers. But in Hindi cinema, we need to make more such grounded films," she added.

The IFFI festival in Goa is celebrating over 240 films from 81 countries, including 13 world premieres, along with cultural events and a special opening parade along the Mandovi river.

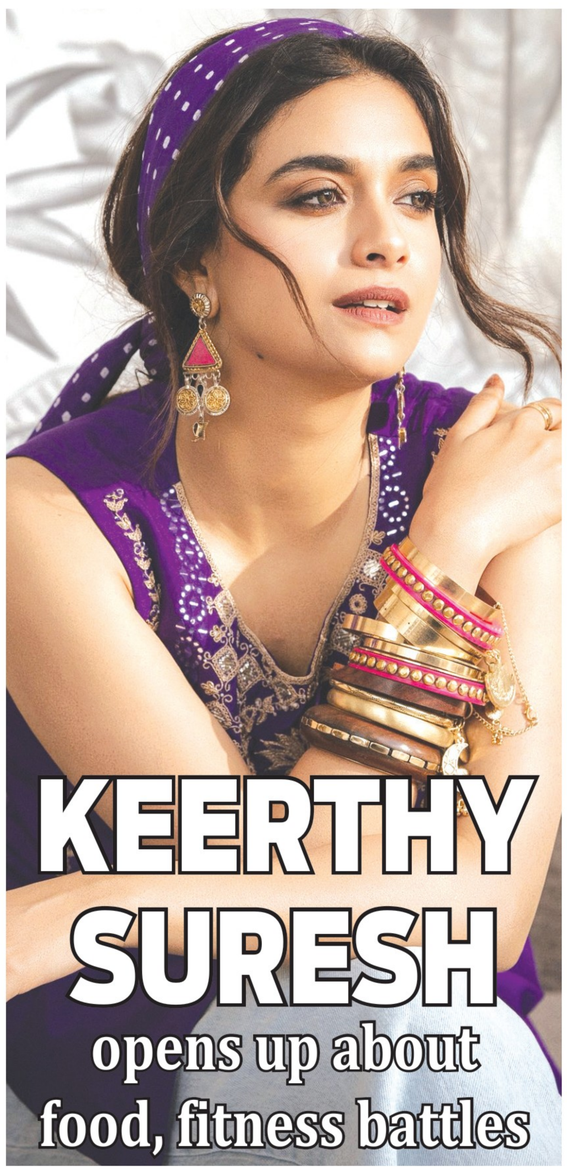
Prabhas' action drama 'Spirit' begins grand journey

The much-awaited film 'Spirit', starring superstar Prabhas and directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, officially began shooting on Sunday, marking a major moment for fans across the country. The makers shared photos from the film's muhurat ceremony, confirming that the project is now underway.

In a special highlight, megastar Chiranjeevi joined the team as the guest of honour, blessing the film on its first day. Pictures from the event showed Sandeep Reddy Vanga, producer Bhushan Kumar, actor Triptii Dimri, Pranay Reddy Vanga and Shiv Chanana taking part in the puja. Although Prabhas did not appear in the photos, the post confirmed that the film has officially gone on floors.

'Spirit' features an exciting cast lineup, including Vivek Oberoi and Prakash Raj in key roles. Earlier, actress Deepika Padukone was expected to play the female lead, but due to scheduling issues, the role went to Triptii Dimri, who continues to rise as one of the most promising young stars.

Last month, the makers released the film's audio teaser in five languages. The teaser hinted at Prabhas playing an IPS officer who is currently in jail, ending with the intriguing line: "Right from childhood, I have one bad habit."



KEERTHY SURESH opens up about food, fitness battles

Actress Keerthy Suresh has always been honest about her love for food, especially her fondness for classic South Indian dishes. In a recent interaction, she admitted that despite her glamorous life on screen, she still faces one big challenge — controlling her appetite.

Keerthy shared that she has been a foodie since childhood. Remembering her younger days, she laughed and said she once ate nearly ten dosas at a time without any guilt. As her acting career grew, she realised she needed to stay fit and healthy. This pushed her to bring major changes to her lifestyle. From being a chubby girl, she worked hard to become leaner and more energetic.

"Even today, I don't stop with just two or three dosas," she said jokingly. "But I have better control now, and I don't let myself overeat like before."

The actress revealed that she recently lost around ten kilos and has no desire to return to her old habits. She now follows a strict workout routine and tries to maintain discipline in both food and fitness. Keerthy added that this balanced approach keeps her active and confident for her demanding film schedules.

On the professional front, Keerthy Suresh is busy shooting for her next film, tentatively titled "Rowdy Janardhan", where she stars opposite actor Vijay Deverakonda. Fans are eager to see her in this new pairing and appreciate her dedication both on and off the set.

Gal Gadot survives scary pregnancy health crisis

Hollywood star Gal Gadot has opened up about a terrifying medical emergency she faced last year while eight months pregnant with her daughter, Ori. The Wonder Woman actor revealed that she suffered a massive brain clot, an ordeal that left her fearing for her life and her baby's safety.

Gadot shared that the incident began with a severe headache that lasted for weeks. Her mother urged her to get an MRI in February 2024. Soon after the scan, her doctor called her urgently to rush to the hospital. "You have a massive brain clot," she was told. Gadot said she was so shocked that she couldn't process anything, wondering, "Am I going to die? Is my baby going to be okay?" Doctors diagnosed her with cerebral venous thrombosis (CVT), a rare but serious condition. Within three hours of the diagnosis, Gadot's daughter Ori was delivered safely. The following morning, while her husband held their newborn, doctors performed a life-saving procedure to remove the clot.

"When I woke up, I realised I had been given two gifts — my baby and a second chance at life," Gadot shared emotionally.

This wasn't the first time she spoke about the ordeal; she had previously reflected on it in a heartfelt Instagram post. On Thursday, she was honoured with the Hollywood Icon Award at the Women's Guild Cedars-Sinai Snow Ball Gala, a moment made even more meaningful after her life-changing experience.

Rashmika's 'The Girlfriend' shines in North America

Rashmika Mandanna's latest film, The Girlfriend, is enjoying a strong run overseas, especially in North America, where it has crossed the $700k mark in its third weekend. The romantic drama, released in India on November 7 and earlier in North America on November 6, continues to bring in steady earnings.

The film has already become a profitable venture for its overseas distributor. With a break-even point at $350k, the movie doubled its required target, turning everything beyond that into pure profit. For a Telugu film of this scale, industry experts usually consider the $1 million mark as a super-hit benchmark in North America. However, given the film's reasonable acquisition cost and strong returns, crossing $700k is viewed as a solid commercial success.

Directed by Rahul Ravindran, The Girlfriend stars Rashmika Mandanna in a bold and emotional role, supported by actor Deekshith Shetty. The story focuses on toxic relationships and encourages women to recognise their worth and walk away from harmful situations. Its message-driven narrative has connected strongly with overseas audiences, contributing to its impressive box-office run.

While the film has received a more average response in the Indian domestic market, its overseas performance tells a different story. In North America, The Girlfriend has clearly struck the right chord and continues to build momentum.

Dwayne Johnson wanted role in 'The Devil Wears Prada 2'

Hollywood superstar Dwayne Johnson revealed that he had pitched himself for a role in the upcoming film The Devil Wears Prada 2, even joking about wearing "size 15 heels" for the part. The actor, 53, shared his enthusiasm describing the character he imagined as "someone who knew fashion, who was cool."

Johnson's interest came while collaborating with Emily Blunt on The Smashing Machine, a film about MMA fighter Mark Kerr. At that time, Blunt was filming her scenes for The Devil Wears Prada 2. Johnson told her he wanted a small role, and Blunt confirmed he had indeed tried to join the cast, which stars Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, and Blunt herself.

Blunt joked about Johnson looking "pretty" in heels, and Johnson laughed, adding that he was even willing to wear the oversized footwear for the role. Although he did not end up in the film, Blunt continued to send him updates and videos from the New York City set, keeping him in the loop about

Kriti Sanon flags Delhi's air pollution crisis

During her visit to the capital for the promotion of Teri Ishk Mein, actor Kriti Sanon expressed deep concern over Delhi's worsening air quality. With the Air Quality Index crossing 400 on Sunday, the city remained under a thick layer of hazardous smog, prompting renewed calls for urgent action.

Kriti, who grew up in Delhi, said the rapid decline in air quality has been alarming. "I don't think saying anything will help now. It's getting worse every year. I'm from Delhi and I know how it used to be. If this continues, we will reach a point where we won't even be able to see the person standing next to us," she said while addressing the media.

Her comments came shortly after she returned from a sangeet performance in Udaipur, where the cleaner air sharply contrasted with Delhi's pollution levels. She noted that every winter brings the same crisis back, but little changes on the ground.

Kriti also shared her experience working with actor-director Dhanush in Teri Ishk Mein, praising his deep understanding of filmmaking. She said his clarity and nuanced approach make every scene stronger and more meaningful.

Teri Ishk Mein, seen as a spiritual successor to Raanjhanaa (2013), marks Dhanush's latest collaboration with director Aanand L. Rai. The film, backed by Aanand L. Rai, Himanshu Sharma, Bhushan Kumar, and Krishan Kumar, is set for release on November 28. The music is composed by A.R. Rahman with lyrics by Irshad Kamil.

Chaitanya's 'Vrushakarma' promise big mythic action

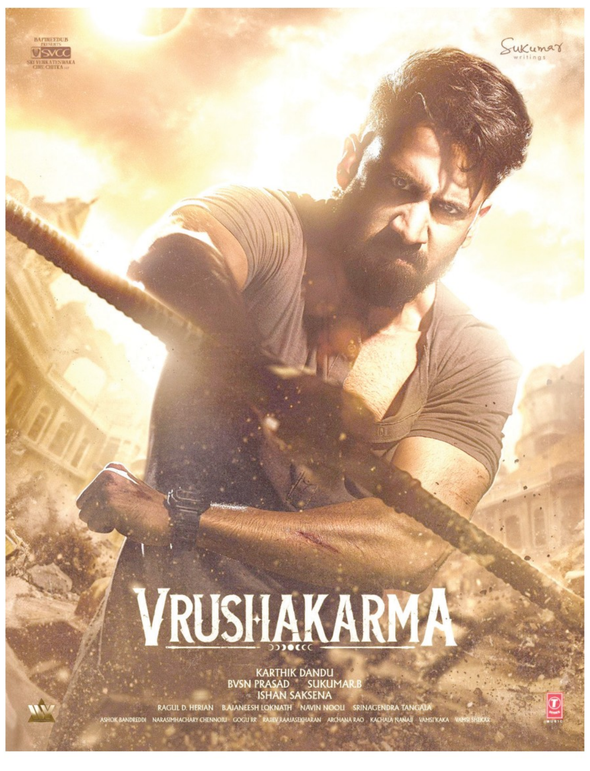
Naga Chaitanya's 24th film has finally been given a title, and fans are buzzing with excitement. The makers unveiled the name "Vrushakarma" on Sunday same as the actor's birthday, along with a striking first-look poster that hints at a grand and intense cinematic experience.

The word Vrushakarma translates to "one who performs righteous deeds," suggesting that Chaitanya will play a character driven by strong values and purpose. The poster shows him locked in a fierce action scene, gripping an iron rod with determination. The raw energy of the image promises a story packed with emotion, strength, and high-voltage drama.

Directed by Karthik Dandu, who impressed audiences with his hit film Virupaksha, the movie again carries a Sanskrit title starting with the letter "V," staying true to the director's style.

The film stars Meenakshi Chaudhary as the female lead. She plays an archaeologist, hinting at an exciting mix of mythology, history, and mystery in the storyline. Actor Sparsh Shrivastava, known for Laapataa Ladies, plays the antagonist, adding a fresh edge to the cast.

Produced by BVSN Prasad in association with Sukumar Writings, Vrushakarma is being created on an impressive scale. With its strong themes and powerful visuals, the film is already raising expectations. Scheduled for release in the second half of 2026, it is shaping up to be one of Naga Chaitanya's most ambitious projects yet.



Indian women clinch historic title in inaugural Blind T20 World Cup

Indian team produced a dominant all-round display to defeat Nepal and claim a landmark crown in Blind T20 World Cup

COLOMBO

India etched their name in history on Sunday by lifting the inaugural Blind Women's T20 World Cup with a commanding seven-wicket win over Nepal at the P Sara Oval. Opting to bowl, India controlled the contest from the outset, restricting Nepal to 114 for 5, a total that featured just one boundary — a testament to the bowling unit's discipline and precision.

In response, India made light work of the chase, cruising to 117 for 3 in only 12 overs. Phula Saren anchored the innings with an assured 44 not out, ensuring the team never lost momentum. Her composed knock provided the backbone to India's authority in a final they dominated from start to finish. India's path to the title included a convincing victory over Australia in the first semifinal, while Nepal entered the final after defeating Pakistan in the second semifinal on Saturday. Hosts Sri Lanka endured a difficult campaign, managing just a single win — against the USA — in the preliminary stage.The six-team tournament also witnessed remarkable individual performances. Pakistan's Mehreen Ali, classified as a B3 partially sighted player, emerged as the standout batter, amassing more than 600 runs. Her extraordinary tally included a blistering 230 off 78 balls against Sri Lanka and a superb 133 against Australia, underlining her dominance throughout the competition. India's triumph not only marks a milestone for the team but also signals a significant moment for the growth and recognition of blind women's cricket worldwide.

LAKSHYA SEN ends title drought with commanding Australian Open triumph

SYDNEY

Lakshya Sen rediscovered his winning rhythm on Sunday, clinching the Australian Open Super 500 title with a fluent and authoritative straight-games victory over Japan's Yushi Tanaka. The 24-year-old Indian dispatched the world No.26 opponent 21-15, 21-11 in just 38 minutes, sealing his first crown of the season and his biggest title since 2024.

The win also makes him only the second Indian shuttler to secure a BWF World Tour title this year, following Ayush Shetty's maiden Super 300 triumph at the US Open.

For Lakshya, the week in Sydney marked a decisive turnaround after a lean period following his fourth-place finish at the Paris Olympics. His last title had come at the Syed Modi International in 2024, while his most recent top-tier success was the Canada Open the same year.

On Sunday, however, he was in complete control, celebrating the victory with his trademark gesture — fingers pressed to his ears.

Tanaka, who had won two Super 300 tournaments earlier this season, struggled to match Lakshya's precision. The Indian quickly built early leads in both games, capitalising on a string of Japanese errors and maintaining relentless pressure through crisp net play, sharp placement and flat, fast returns. A sizeable Indian contingent in the stands added to his momentum, chanting his name during key intervals.

Lakshya's tactical clarity stood out throughout the contest. He repeatedly denied Tanaka the depth required to unleash his powerful smashes, forcing rushed shots and unforced errors.

Once ahead, he accelerated confidently, producing a series of cross-court winners, backhand smashes and pinpoint drives to keep the Japanese shuttler on the defensive. With this victory, Lakshya joins a small group of Indian players to make deep runs this season, alongside Satwiksairaj Rankireddy–Chirag Shetty and Kidambi Srikanth, who all finished runners-up at various events. The Australian Open win, though, firmly re-establishes Lakshya as one of India's leading contenders heading into the 2026 season.

Lakshya's dominant performance caps a resurgent week and revives his international season.

Barcelona mark emotional Camp Nou return with emphatic 4-0 win

BARCELONAW

Barcelona inaugurated their rebuilt Camp Nou in style, ending a two-and-a-half-year exile with a commanding 4-0 victory over Athletic Bilbao that lifted them level with Real Madrid at the top of La Liga. The occasion, long delayed due to construction setbacks, drew more than 45,000 supporters despite steep ticket prices, as fireworks and festivities set the stage for a memorable homecoming. Robert Lewandowski opened the scoring inside four minutes, capitalising on a high press led by Eric Garcia to fire past Unai Simón at the near post. The Basque goalkeeper, who got a touch on the ball, could not prevent the veteran striker from netting his eighth league goal of an injury-disrupted season. Barcelona doubled their advantage on the stroke of half-time through Ferran Torres, who finished clinically after Lamine Yamal released him with a deft outside-of-the-boot pass. Coach Hansi Flick hailed the night as "a dream come true", praising his side's intensity, clean sheet and the emotional significance of returning home. Goalkeeper Joan Garcia, back after a nine-game injury absence, contributed to Barcelona's first shutout since September. Early in the second half, Fermin Lopez added a third after another aggressive high press from Garcia. Athletic's frustration mounted when Oihan Sancet was sent off following a VAR review for a rash foul on Lopez.

Verstappen triumphs in Las Vegas as Norris extends title lead with P2

LAS VEGAS

Red Bull's Max Verstappen clinched victory at the Las Vegas Grand Prix, while McLaren's Lando Norris strengthened his championship bid with a composed drive to second place under the floodlights.

The result extends Norris's lead over teammate Oscar Piastri to 30 points with two races and a sprint remaining in the 2025 Formula One season.

Verstappen, a four-time world champion, controlled the race from the front, delivering a measured performance to keep the McLarens and Mercedes at bay. His win keeps him mathematically in the title fight, moving him to 366 points—42 behind Norris—with a maximum of 58 still available.

Norris, starting from the front row, managed his tyres well through the high-degradation conditions on the Las Vegas Strip Circuit, ensuring he stayed clear of the battles unfolding behind him. His second-place finish boosts his tally to 408 points and places him firmly in charge of the championship picture ahead of the penultimate round in Qatar.

George Russell secured third for Mercedes, marking a strong return to the podium for last year's Las Vegas winner. The British driver benefited from consistent pace and clean execution in a race marked by strategic variation throughout the field.

Oscar Piastri crossed the line fourth but was handed a five-second penalty after an incident involving Mercedes rookie Kimi Antonelli. The penalty, however, did not affect his finishing position, leaving him on 378 points—still Norris's closest challenger but now needing a strong weekend in Qatar to stay within striking distance.

With two grands prix left and the added points from a sprint still in play, the title fight remains open. But as the paddock heads to Lusail, the momentum—and the advantage—firmly belongs to Lando Norris.

Hockey India offers free entry for FIH Men's Junior World Cup in Tamil Nadu

MADURAI

In a landmark push to boost fan participation and widen the reach of international hockey, Hockey India on Sunday announced free entry for all matches of the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup Tamil Nadu 2025. The tournament, scheduled from November 28 to December 10 across Chennai and Madurai, will feature 24 teams, marking the biggest edition in the event's history.

Fans can book their virtual tickets at no cost through the Ticketgenie website or the Hockey India mobile app. Once registered, spectators will receive a digital ticket, ensuring a smooth, paperless entry system and eliminating the need for physical collection. The move aims to draw larger crowds, especially young fans, students, and families eager to witness top-tier junior hockey action.

Calling the decision historic, Hockey India President Dr. Dilip Tirkey said the initiative reflects the federation's commitment to making international hockey more accessible. "This is a historic moment for Indian hockey, and we want every fan to be part of it. Free tickets open the gates for students, young athletes, families, and hockey lovers across Tamil Nadu and beyond," he said. Tirkey added that the passion of Indian fans has always been a driving force for the sport.

Hockey India Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh echoed the sentiment, emphasising the importance of creating an electrifying atmosphere as Tamil Nadu hosts the Junior World Cup for the first time. He noted that removing entry barriers reinforces Hockey India's vision of promoting the sport at the grassroots and encouraging fans to support emerging global talent.

The 24 participating teams have been divided into four pools, with hosts India placed in Pool A alongside Chile, Oman, and Switzerland. India will begin their campaign against Chile on November 28 in Chennai, followed by clashes with Oman on November 29 and Switzerland on December 2.

All matches will be streamed live on JioHotstar, allowing fans nationwide to follow the action as the world's best young players compete for top honours.

England 'amateurish' if they skip pink-ball warm-up, warns Vaughan

LONDON

Former Ashes-winning captain Michael Vaughan has criticised England's preparation plans ahead of the second Test in Brisbane, insisting it would be "amateurish" not to stage a dedicated pink-ball warm-up under lights. England were thrashed inside two days in the series opener in Perth, leaving them trailing 0-1 with a long gap until the next match on December 4. Vaughan said the innings defeat should prompt England to urgently rethink their schedule. While the visitors are due to play a Prime Minister's XI on November 29, the fixture is set to feature England Lions rather than the Test XI. Vaughan argued that the senior squad must take the initiative and arrange a two-day practice match of their own under floodlights to acclimatise to pink-ball conditions. "It's amateurish if England don't go out and practise between now and then," Vaughan told Test Match Special. "What harm is it playing two days of cricket with the pink ball under lights? You go and grab it, take it, and give yourself the best chance." England's concerns are compounded by Australia's formidable pink-ball record. The hosts have won 13 of their 14 day-night Tests, including all three previous encounters against England.

KL Rahul to lead India in ODIs as Gaikwad returns for SA series

RANCHI

KL Rahul will lead India in the upcoming three-match ODI series against South Africa after regular skipper Shubman Gill was ruled out with a neck injury.

The BCCI on Sunday announced a 15-member squad featuring senior players Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, along with the returning Ruturaj Gaikwad.

Rahul, who has previously captained India in 12 ODIs between 2022 and 2023, was chosen ahead of Rohit Sharma as the stand-in captain. Gill sustained the injury during the first Test against South Africa in Kolkata earlier this month and remains unavailable, having also missed the ongoing second Test in Guwahati.

The Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee opted for continuity in leadership, entrusting Rahul with the role despite Rohit being part of the squad. India will host the ODIs in Ranchi on November 30, Raipur on December 3, and Visakhapatnam on December 6.

All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has been recalled after missing the recent Australia tour, replacing Axar Patel, who is likely being rested. Ruturaj Gaikwad also returns to the ODI side after recovering from injury, bolstering India's top-order options.

With a blend of experience and youth, India will look to fine-tune their combinations as they build towards a busy 2026 season.

For Rahul, India's dependable crisis-solver, the series offers another chance to deliver as he has so often before. He last captained in a 2023 ODI series in South Africa, steering India to a 2-1 win. Now, as first-choice wicketkeeper and No. 5, he can reaffirm his leadership.

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